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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 151

WEDNESDAY JULY 31, 2013

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INSIDE

GADGETS & GIZMOS



Electronics sales are flat, but tablet and smartphones are soaring.

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ASIA



Princesses in north India win a royal fortune.

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LIFE & STYLE



Macau aims for another Las Vegas staple: big time boxing matches.

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These two white domes or antennas in front of the Division of Customs Services office at the seaport sit idle for years after a U.S. Department of the Interior-funded computer system project allegedly failed to function properly to meet Customs' needs.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'A waste of federal funds'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Almost \$600,000 in U.S. Department of the Interior funding may have gone to waste and possibly thousands of dollars in CNMI taxes may have not been collected by the local government when data was lost, both as a result of an allegedly defective computer software system installed by Gary Sword's company at the Division of Customs Service in 2005.

» Unlike Fund, Customs didn't sue business over 'defective system'
» Customs lost data, may have lost tax collections

That was long before the NMI Retirement Fund would discover that Sword's Express Electronics also installed an allegedly defective software that cost the pension agency over \$406,000 beginning in 2008.

Unlike the Retirement Fund, the Division of Customs or the Department of Finance didn't sue Sword or his business, Express Electronics. Eight years later, all that's left of that

system are two unused white domes, or antennas, sitting idle on the façade of Customs' seaport office.

"We lost data when the system was breaking down all the time. We couldn't recover them, including data on taxes that we might not have collected up to now," a former Customs official told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Other former and current Customs officials confirmed the "challenges" the division experienced when Express Electronics installed the computer system.

Customs Director Joe Mafnas, when sought for comment yesterday, said the

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Fitial resigns as Republican chair

» Party to elect officers today
» So-called IRs will remain independents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial has resigned as chairman and president of the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association and party members will meet at 6pm tonight at the Garapan Central Park to elect his and other officers' replacements. This comes more than eight months after the party's

dismal showing in the last elections.

Fitial sent GOP first vice president Rita Chong-Dela Cruz his resignation letter, which was also sent to other Republicans, *Saipan Tribune* sources said yesterday.

"I think it's about time

See FITIAL on Page 4



US govt concerned over Ayuyu's alleged drug use

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government does not oppose the temporary release of Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) pending his sentencing but it expressed concerns about his alleged drug use and obstructive conduct.

As this developed, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona postponed until Monday, Aug. 5, the hearing on Ayuyu's motion to release him from custody while he awaits sentencing on Nov. 8, 2013.

Manglona ordered the hearing's postponement after attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Ayuyu in the fruit bat case, told the court that although they have already two proposed third party custodians—the senator's mother and his daughter—they still need to complete the papers for the property bond.

The judge noted that she will require a property bond and that she wants to see a clear title for the property.

Manglona also stressed that she will require Ayuyu to be tested for drugs if

See AYUYU on Page 4

DPS to create substation in Susupe, Chalan Kanoa. PAGE 2
PSS execs in DC to explain audit deficiency. PAGE 5

Local

DPS to create substation in Susupe, Chalan Kanoa

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will be establishing another police substation in Susupe and Chalan Kanoa—two adjacent villages on Saipan that, according to DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, are known as the crime capital of the CNMI.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed

» G4S donates 3 bikes, 2 computers

DPS' plan to extend its community policing program to Susupe and Chalan Kanoa yesterday in a press briefing in his office where he also announced G4S Security's donation of three mountain bikes and two computers, all worth about \$1,700 to \$2,000.

Deleon Guerrero said the three bicycles will be used by officers who will be assigned at the police substation that will either be in Susupe or Chalan Kanoa.

He said DPS is now in the final phase of extending to Susupe and Chalan Kanoa its model community policing program in Garapan.

"With the availability of these bikes, now we can begin the program in Susupe and Chalan Kanoa areas," he added.

Deleon Guerrero has a strong message to criminals operating in Susupe and Chalan Kanoa: "Stop your activities or get out because we are coming in."

He said he is particularly concerned about theft and drug activities in those villages.

DPS officially opened in May its Tourism Oriented Policing Section, a new unit that aims to protect tourists and residents in the area designated as the Garapan revitalization project.

G4S president Chris Garde said they will donate two more



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, third from right, shows off one of three mountain bikes that G4S donated yesterday for the community policing program. From left are G4S president Chris Garde, G4S divisional director Ed Bitanga, G4S operations manager Kathy Casil, Deleon Guerrero, G4S operations supervisor Sylvan Rangamar, and Sgt. Joe Saures.

Guam Police Department.

Garde said that G4S supports law enforcement by helping in the fight against crimes and he applauds the commissioner's effort to forge a partnership with the private sector.

Garde said they will also hand over in the next couple of months surveillance cameras to DPS, similar to what they did with the

Also present at the news briefing were G4S divisional director for Guam and CNMI Ed Bitanga, operations manager Kathy Casil, and operations supervisor Sylvan Rangamar.

Police Sgt. Joe Saures, who

will head the Susupe and Chalan Kanoa community policing program, and Commonwealth Investigation Bureau chief Jeffrey Olopai also attended the presentation of the bikes and computers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, August 1, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments
- III. Reports
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Executive Director
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - a. Clarification re: Commission Action No. 13-001(a)-05212013
- V. New Business
 - a. Procurement Regulations
 - b. Designation of Regular Monthly Meeting days
 - c. Procedure for Variation of Casino Layout requests
 - d. Procedure for Casino Employee License Applications
 - e. TDHC Casino Employee Applications
- VI. Executive Session
- VII. Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters
 - a. Designation of Special Meeting days
- VIII. Adjournment

1. Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

2. Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Discourse on NMI history gives a glimpse of past, present, future

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The hundred people in attendance at novelist P.F. Kluge's "Saipan Then, Saipan Now, Saipan Tomorrow" presentation appreciated the former Peace Corps volunteer's candor when it came to analyzing the islands' woes.

Businessman Bud White, for one, liked Kluge's honest and candid assessment of the CNMI so much that he personally invited the Kenyon College writer-in-residence to come back to the islands.

He promised to take care of Kluge's board and lodging and also appealed to the community to take care of its tourism industry.

"Let's all get with the program. If tourism is our No. 1 industry, then let's stop ripping off the tourists! Let's not screw our major industry. Each of us have a responsibility to see that this island succeeds," said White.

Dave Attao, the Northern Marianas College dean of administration, said that Kluge's talk was intriguing and will inspire some soul-searching.

"It was quite interesting as he made it all personal and brought a lot of history and knowledge to it. It was impor-



MARK RABAGO

P.F. Kluge writes a dedication on his book *Master Blaster* that was bought by one of the attendees of last Friday's "Saipan Then, Saipan Now, Saipan Tomorrow" held at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

tant to look at his perspective and view. That was really key for me and that we could've shaped our islands differently back then and saying that we look at our past and shape the future. How he saw the birth of the Commonwealth and how we pretty much went from hell and back."

What had the most impact on Motherhead/Fatheread coordinator Bryan Manabat was the last part of Kluge's talk about how sovereignty comes from a certain relationship with the land and traceable ancestral burial grounds and that these are non-negotiable commodities.

Graphic artist Charlie Rivera said he appreciated the author's simple yet clear-cut assessment of the islands' past, current situation, and what bodes for its future. "Mr. Kluge was very honest and straightforward with his comments on his experiences on this island."

Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan said that Kluge did a fantastic job in describing the history of the CNMI since he first came to the islands as a Peace Corps volunteer.

"The Trust Territory government took great advantage of Dr. Kluge when he was here and I think he has well described

how things were in the old days. I'm very happy he was here. He described what it was when he first came here on the island and he observed how things went. He gave us an idea to think about," he said.

Kluge also talked in length about Sablan, who he first met in Chuuk, during Friday night's event at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

He said that during the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan he heard his old friend speak about his experiences during World War II.

"Sablan and his family hid inside a cave on Mt. Tapochao and was told by Japanese that Americans were monsters, tall, cruel, lethal. When they were eventually enticed out of their hiding places, their first Marine was 4'8" tall, skinny, red-haired, and maybe 120 lbs. Sablan said the Marine was wearing a crucifix and suddenly Sablan lost it, covering his face with his hands, swiping at tears..." narrated Kluge.

"Saipan Then, Saipan Now, Saipan Tomorrow" was organized by the CNMI Humanities Council and its executive director Scott Russell thanked Kluge for not only agreeing to headline the event but also conduct a monthlong writers workshop on Saipan.



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AMENDMENT #01 PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, August 1, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. Thursday, May 2, 2013 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - a. Division Monthly Reports
 - b. LIHTC Program – On-going Compliance Monitoring Briefing
 - c. Update on USDA RD Guaranty and Plan of Action
 - d. Update on CDBG Matters
 - e. Update on NSP3
 - f. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
 - g. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
 - h. Loans for Review and Approval
 - i. Requests for Garapan Annex Units
 - j. Garapan Properties for Sale/Lease – 003 D 16 and 003 D22
- IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
 - a. Rota Field Office
 - b. Tinian Field Office
- V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
 - a. Amended FY 2014 Budget
 - b. Fiscal Division Audit Reports
 - c. Unaudited Financial Statement as of June 30, 2013
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

AG runoff election and new polling date in new bill

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new bill amending election law changes the "general election" date every two years and provides for a runoff election

if no attorney general candidate receives more than half of the total votes cast. This comes more than a year before the CNMI is to elect an AG for the first time.

The CNMI attorney general

Suspension of CDA direct loans stays for now

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businesses wanting to avail of the Commonwealth Development Authority's direct loan program are being encouraged to participate instead in the State Small Business Credit Initiative, following disclosure that CDA has no plan at this time to reopen the direct loan program.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan and loan manager Oscar Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that the agency is giving its full attention to making the SSBCI a success in the Commonwealth.

CDA imposed a moratorium on its loan program early last year. It was supposed to be temporary only until such time that the agency has built up its reserves. The program had been experiencing a high rate of delinquencies.

On Friday, Sablan hinted that the moratorium will stay a bit longer as CDA is committed in making the SSBCI work first before they move forward with the direct loan program.

Camacho said that up to this

time, some people still continue to ask about CDA's direct loan program. These potential borrowers are immediately advised and encouraged to participate in the SSBCI.

Under the SSBCI, CDA can come in and assist potential bank borrowers if they are short on collateral to make the loan.

Because of this, Camacho said, "there's no reason for these borrowers to insist on going to CDA to make a loan when \$4 million is sitting at the bank under the SSBCI program."

According to him, SSBCI will also make businesses credit worthy.

"Small or big loans can qualify for the SSBCI program as long as you go through the process. We put a priority on this program because we need to deploy the \$4 million as soon as possible," according to Sablan.

It is only after committing and obligating 80 percent of the \$4 million that the CNMI can ask for the disbursement of the second tranche from the U.S. Treasury. The same goes with the last tranche.

has always been a governor-appointed position. Voters ratified last year Rep. Frank Dela Cruz's (Ind-Saipan) legislative initiative to make the attorney general post an elective position.

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 18-107, co-sponsored by two others, changes

the general election held throughout the CNMI every two years from the "first Saturday in November" to the "first Tuesday after the first Monday in November on even number years."

The bill also provides for runoff elections for an AG.

Under the bill, if no AG can-

didate receives more than half of the total votes cast, there shall be a runoff election 14 days after the Commonwealth Election Commission has certified the results of the general election.

The commission shall certify the results of the general election not later than 20 days after the date of the general election, the bill says.

Other changes to CNMI

election law are offered in the bill, including polling hour changes for early voting and reducing from five to three the signatures of commissioners needed to verify discrepancy noted as the cause for rejection of an absentee ballot, and reduction in the number of observers from each political party from two to one in the vicinity of the counting and tabulation.

Backman insists no evidence to support her conviction

A former karaoke club operator who was convicted of sex trafficking insists that the prosecution failed to provide any evidence to support the charges against her.

Chang Ru Meng Backman, through counsel Joaquin DLG. Torres, said the court should acquit her or give her a new trial because the U.S. government failed to provide any evidence to support one of the elements of the charge of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion.

The jurors found Backman guilty of one count of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion, but acquitted her of two counts of the same charges involving two other women. She will be sentenced on Sept.

13, 2013.

Backman's lawyer, Torres, said there simply cannot be a guilty verdict when there was no evidence that his client knew or was in reckless disregard that a threat of force, fraud, or coercion would be used against one of the three alleged victim by customer Peter Leau or other customers to engage in commercial sex.

In its opposition, the U.S.

government argued, among other things, that they only need to prove that the defendant knowingly harbored, transported, or provided the victim and knowingly coerced her into engaging in commercial sex acts.

The prosecution also argued that there is sufficient evidence to support Backman's conviction because of the victim's special vulnerabilities.

In Backman's reply filed on

Monday, Torres said the prosecution did not do its job to prove beyond a reasonable doubt every single element of the charge of sex trafficking by force fraud, or coercion.

Torres said the prosecution simply did not provide any evidence that Backman knew that force, fraud, or coercion would be used to cause the woman to engage in commercial sex acts.

(*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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AYUYU

From Page 1

she allows him to be released.

Manglona said she is concerned about allegations that Ayuyu used "some sort of a controlled substance."

The judge noted that assis-

tant U.S. attorney Garth Backe raised that information about alleged drug use in the government's response to Ayuyu's motion for release.

Manglona said she sees a lot of people who have been granted temporary release and were tempted to use controlled substances.

Ayuyu wants to be allowed to get out of jail until his sentencing so that he could set his affairs in order and do whatever is needed before he leaves to serve his prison sentence. That may include resigning from his post as a senator for Rota.

Berline and attorney David J. Lujan said that Ayuyu has been in continuous detention since Dec. 15, 2012. Lujan is Ayuyu's counsel in the obstruction of justice case and cell phone use.

Backe said they have already informed Ayuyu's lawyers that the prosecution would not oppose his request for release if he agrees to some conditions. He said both defense lawyers have stated that Ayuyu would voluntarily agree to the imposition of conditions.

Backe said that Ayuyu has repeatedly engaged in behavior both before and after being indicted, as well as since being detained, that indicates a person with minimal respect for the law.

"The government, though, acknowledges that its primary concerns were and continue to be his drug use and obstructive conduct," he said.

Backe, however, stated that drug use can be effectively monitored through random testing, and the chief dangers of any obstruction—comprising

the government's case at trial—have likely passed in light of his guilty pleas.

The prosecutor said they don't oppose the release on conditions that Ayuyu shall post a \$20,000 cash bond or equivalent security interest in real property; provide a suitable third-party custodian; and submit to drug testing, surrender any passport or travel document, and avoid direct or indirect contact with any person who is or may be a victim or witness at sentencing.

Backe said these conditions are, at a minimum, necessary to prevent flight and to protect the community.

In an interview after the hearing, Berline said they need to provide the court appropriate documents for a clear title of real property.

On the drug issue, Berline said he does not want to speak on that because he is representing Ayuyu only in the misdemeanor fruit bat case and that he has no first-hand information about what the government is talking about.

Last July 22, Ayuyu, 48, pleaded guilty to two charges relating to the smuggling of endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan. Subject to the court's approval, he will receive a prison term between 33 months and 41 months.

KAKEHASHI PROJECT

Students from Marianas High School participate in the Kakehashi—"Bridge for Tomorrow" project in Japan. They were in Japan for nine days for cultural exchange with a two-day home stay. The students gained a wealth of knowledge and appreciation of the Japanese culture and way of life.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



FITIAL

From Page 1

we elect new officers," GOP's Oscar Rasa separately said when asked about today's GOP meeting.

As of yesterday, it was not known who the GOP's gubernatorial candidate might be in the 2014 elections, or who the new party president and officers

might be, Republican officials and members said yesterday.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), whose name has always been coming up as potential candidate, separately said yesterday he will be attending the GOP meeting tonight as a Republican.

Another Republican, former speaker Heinz Hofschneider, is also a potential gubernatorial bet, although some sources said

he may run as an independent candidate. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, meanwhile, is running for governor under the Covenant Party.

Meanwhile, Independent-Republican chair Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and IR vice chair Diego Benavente separately said yesterday that the so-called IRs will remain "IRs" and they are not reclaiming or rejoining the Republican Party.

In the November 2012 elec-

tions, most of the Republican Party candidates lost. Observers and Republicans themselves later said the GOP candidates' defeat was mainly because of voters' disappointment with Fitial, who was a subject of a minority bloc impeachment resolution that Fitial's allies in the House at the time rejected.

Frustrated by the outcome of the vote on the impeachment resolution in the then Fitial-

controlled House, majority of voters did not vote for Fitial's candidates in November.

The then-minority bloc in the House, along with coalition members, became the majority in the 18th House, making it easy to file a second impeachment resolution against Fitial, also for similar charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

The House, led by Speaker

Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) impeached Fitial, the first time in CNMI history. Fitial also became the first governor impeached among all U.S. territories.

Fitial resigned on Feb. 20, just days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate. The Republican Party has not held a meeting since then, and Fitial has not returned to the CNMI since Feb. 21.

FUNDS

From Page 1

system was installed during a previous leadership and all he knows is that the system "has not been used for some two years now."

"And no, we don't have a plan to fix or upgrade that system. We call it the BMS system. We are okay with what we have been using, the AS 400. I have never dealt with the BMS but, according to senior officers, BMS wasn't really suitable for Customs usage from the beginning," Mafnas said.

Former Customs director Jay Santos, who was also sought for comment yesterday, said it was almost toward the end of his term as division director when the system was installed.

"At the time, it was our intention to pursue a system that will work for the best interest of the CNMI," Santos said.

Santos, like other former and current Customs officials interviewed for this story, said the system had a lot of "challenges." They also said that Customs

paid Express Electronics in full for this project.

According to Customs officials interviewed in person and by phone yesterday, Sword's Express Electronics hired an expert from Russia and later, an expert from India, to fix the system when Customs complained about its alleged deficiencies. Nothing these experts did fixed the system's errors, they said.

"But Sword didn't pay the Russian expert and he went back to Russia. From Russia, that expert shut off the system because he didn't get paid. That's what we knew. So Sword hired an Indian guy but the system was still having problems. So Customs just had to stop using it and go back to the old system which is still a reliable system," one of the sources said.

As of yesterday, no one could answer the question: Why didn't Customs sue the contractor, Express Electronics and/or its partner company?

Rep. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), a former Retirement Fund official, said, "Perhaps, if Customs had brought up the issue, the Fund would have

known about the history of Mr. Sword's business dealings."

The Fund didn't sue Sword and Express Electronics until early 2012, four years after the contract over the alleged defective software was executed. By then, the Fund had already paid Sword.

"I hope given the experiences by Customs and the Retirement Fund, plus the other islands, the CNMI government would be more careful in dealing with [him]," Taitano said.

Mafnas said this issue "may be with the higher-ups now."

Meanwhile, the alleged defective computer system that Express Electronics installed at Customs in 2005 also caused trees surrounding Customs at the seaport to be chopped down, former and current Customs sources said.

"When the system started to break down, the company said it was because of the trees interfering with the signal from the two antennas or domes at Customs to the Mt. Tapochau tower so they chopped down the trees in front of Customs. The system was still going offline after that," one of them said.

Sword's Express Electronics was supposed to install a system that will make it far easier for Customs to track imports and assess tariffs on goods coming into the CNMI.

"It was not working to Customs specifications during the short time it was working. It was working on and off, we were losing our data," another source said.

Sword, co-owner of KKMP radio station, could not be reached for comments yesterday.

Sword announced his company's contract with Customs during a Rotary Club of Saipan meeting in May 2005 at Hyatt Regency Saipan. At the time, Sword said that Express Electronics had a partnership with another company for the Customs system project.

The \$580,000-project was bid out in March 2005, with funding from Interior.

Sword told Rotary Club members and guests at the time that the system should be up and running by July 2005.

He had said with the new computer system, all data entry will be electronically transferred, shipping manifests will

be received electronically via e-mail, and vendor declaration of entry will be received electronically. He also said shipments can be cleared in a shorter time and can also be pre-cleared. Payments can be handled at any Customs office and the connectivity between islands can be achieved.

Sword said local end-users would have no trouble managing the system because it is user-friendly as it runs on Windows-based software.

But one of the former Customs officials said yesterday the system "didn't meet the minimum expectations we had at that time."

The software, Sword said at the time, would also help the tax office collaborate on correct tax assessment based on vendor imports. Sword said the system could now track officers for possible collaboration with certain vendors.

In April 2012, the Retirement Fund finally filed a lawsuit against Sword and Express Electronics and 10 unnamed co-defendants, for breach of contract and unjust enrichment.

The Marshall Islands government is also running after Sword for alleged failure to fulfill a contract obligation also involving a management software system. The Marshall Islands Attorney General's Office accused Sword of "flagrantly breaching the trust reposed on them by the people of Marshall Islands."

Other government officials, including Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios, said the Office of the Public Auditor is investigating a grant awarded to Guahan Pacific, a new nonprofit that Sword is also involved in, among other things.

In 2011, a lawmaker also asked OPA and the Office of the Attorney General to look into Sword's KKMP radio station's use of the Emergency Management Office tower on Mt. Tapuchau for allegedly being given "improper access" to the EMO tower for free.

Meanwhile, press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday he's not aware of any pending government project contract with Sword, or whether there is a new one he's bidding for.

PSS execs in DC to explain audit deficiency

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three ranking officials of the CNMI Public School System flew to Washington D.C. on Sunday to explain to the federal government some deficiencies that were recently uncovered in one of its programs.

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., will meet with U.S. Department of Education executives about the status of the special education program in the Commonwealth.

With Sablan are PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh and special education director Suzanne Lizama.

According to Guerrero, the three PSS officials will justify with the USDOE some of the deficiencies cited in an audit conducted on the special education program in fiscal year 2011.

"[Sablan] is in D.C. because we need to explain and address

the audit findings regarding our special education program. PSS has to explain and show documentations that we're addressing the deficiencies cited in the audit," he said.

The 2011 audit found a questioned cost of \$119,335 in the special education program. This covers the area of "activities allowed or unallowed and allowable costs."

Under federal standards, expenditures should be authorized, supported, and approved prior to incurrence. Payroll costs should be supported by an authorized notice of personnel action, time cards, and certified timesheets.

In addition, the grant's special terms and conditions require that when issuing statements, requests for proposals, bid solicitations and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with federal money, it shall clearly state the dollar value amount of federal funds for project, the percentage of the total cost of the project that will be financed

with federal funds, and the percentage and dollar amount of the total cost to be funded by non-federal source.

In the audit report, majority of the citations were marked as ongoing, which means they haven't been resolved yet.

Despite these findings, Guerrero stressed that this doesn't mean that the amount in question was improperly expended. He said there are times when some documents go missing or unavailable during the time the audit is being conducted and that is reflected in the overall report.

Although a host of "conditions" were cited in the audit report, Guerrero said that many of those are "minor and not substantive in nature." He said majority of the findings will be resolved by strengthening policies such as that governing travel.

"And we're addressing all those issues," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The special education program is a federally-funded program that provides PSS over \$4 million each fiscal year.

NMC application deadline is today

New students who are interested in enrolling for the Northern Marianas College's fall 2013 semester will need to submit their application for admission no later than today, July 31, 2013.

Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions Records in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or may be downloaded from www.nmcnet.edu on the fall 2013 registration page.

Note that supporting documents (i.e., transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must also be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application. Application forms submitted after the

IMPORTANT DATES

- **July 31:** Deadline to submit NMC admission application for fall 2013
- **July 31:** Student orientation for new and returning students (9am-11:30am, Room D-1)
- **Aug. 7:** Student orientation for international students (9am-11:30am, Room D-1)

- **Aug. 8:** Registration and add/drop course(s) day for students under disability support services (8:30am-5pm)
- **Aug. 8:** Student orientation for new returning students (5pm-7:30pm, Room D-1)
- **Aug. 12-16:** Registration for new, returning and ongoing students (9am-4pm)

deadline will be processed for the following semester.

New students and returning students (did not take courses at NMC in the previous semester, spring or summer) are required to attend a student orientation in order to register for courses. Students must confirm which session they will be attending by calling the Office of Admissions Records

at 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1537.

NMC offers several degree programs, associate degrees, and short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1537 or visit www.nmcnet.edu. (**NMC**)

Water outage today, Friday in Koblerville

Residents of Koblerville will experience a nine-hour partial water outage today, July 31, 2013, and Friday, Aug. 2, 2013, from 8 am to 5pm on both days, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., to replace non-working gate valves on Sentada Ct. and Afetna Rd and non-working fire hydrants on Tinaktak Dr. This project is part of the Koblerville gate valve and fire hydrant replacement project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The partial water outage today will affect residents living on Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road, Sentada Ct., and Afetna Road.

The partial water outage on Friday will affect residents living on Tinaktak Dr., Tottotville, and higher elevation homes in Koblerville.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise

Water outage on Friday in As Lito, Fina Sisu, and As Perdido

The oration would like to inform the residents of As Lito, Fina Sisu and As Perdido will experience a nine-hour water outage on Friday, Aug. 2, 2013, from 8 am to 5pm, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC Inc., to make the connection to the existing waterline on Chalan Tun Antonio Apa Road near the Northern Marianas College and at the Chalan Msgr. Martinez intersection by the Shell Dandan gas station. This project is part of the San Vicente service area extension project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The water outage will affect residents living on Chalan Tun

Antonio Apa Rd. and residents in Fina Sisu, As Lito, and As Perdido. CUC encourages its customers to call the CUC Call Center at (670) 235-0282 or 235-2282 if you have any complaints about having no water or low pressure water as GPPC Inc. transfers CUC's existing customers from the old 8-inch ACP waterline to the new 12-inch PVC C900-07 waterline.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites. One-lane closures are to be expected on Airport Rd. as GPPC Inc. begins the construction work for road restoration. (**CUC**)

caution when driving through the construction sites.

Direct inquiries to project

manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 235-7025-30 Ext. 324. (**CUC**)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-022

SALARY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified consultant or consulting firm to review and revise the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's current Salary Administration Program (SAP), including the development of a performance management rating and payment system.

The RFP package and the scope-of-work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **August 8, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-022, Salary Administration Program", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 27, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Frankie Cepeda, CUC Human Resource Manager via email frankie.cepeda@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-024

TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Tank Nos. 103, 120 & ISO Tank Cleaning at CUC Power Plant, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The "CUC" or "Corporation" currently operates multiple diesel engine generators at its Power Plant Nos. 1 and No. 2, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI. The CUC is soliciting proposals from experienced contractors or specialist firms experienced in the cleaning of fuel storage tanks up to 1 M USG capacity.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). It is the corporations' desire to undertake cleaning of the Bulk tank # 103, as soon the new tank #102 under construction is commissioned:

The work shall be done in two phases:

- **Phase 1 - Tank # 103 (840,000 gal.)**
- **Phase 2 - Miscellaneous tanks - Tank # 120 (20,000 gal.) & ISO tanks, 2 ea. - 6,350 gal.**

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT 1, SAIPAN**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 29, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Excluding NMI's undocumented aliens 'amounts to discrimination'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Excluding undocumented aliens in the CNMI from the comprehensive immigration bill that is being debated in the U.S. Congress is tantamount to discrimination, according to the legal counsel for the US Pinoys for Good Governance.

Ted Laguatan, who also

serves as the group's spokesperson, said that undocumented immigrants in the CNMI are similarly situated as those in the U.S. mainland.

"Many of them are good people who have lived and worked in the CNMI for years and have children who were born here or grew up here. Not to include them in the legalization provision that provides a path to U.S.

citizenship is grossly unfair to them and amounts to odious discrimination and an obvious disrespect to the principle of equal protection of the law," he said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Laguatan pointed out that the U.S. is a nation of immigrants of all races and various national origins and its diversity is its strength.

"We have always welcomed

immigrants from all over the world. The CNMI is stifling its own growth by holding itself as different from the rest of America by denying the legalization of undocumented immigrants whose origins are not from the Mariana Islands."

He said it is his hope that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will support USP4GG's petition asking

House Speaker John Boehner (R-Il) to include undocumented aliens in the CNMI in the lower house's version of the immigration measure.

"We are also hoping that the CNMI representative, with all due respect to him, will support this petition and appreciate that the U.S. is a country of immigrants from diverse cultures and origins. We pray that he does not give in to the temptation of seeking to pander to the narrow-minded viewpoint of those who wish to deny political and economic power from those who did not originally come from the Mariana islands, who can contribute so much to the CNMI in so many ways. We are all part of the human race.

"We're saying that they also should be included as they are similarly situated as those in the U.S. mainland and in respect for the principle of equal protection of the law. The CNMI is definitely a U.S. territory and the same uniform federal laws should apply. Otherwise, Congress would be engaging in invidious discrimination."

For her part, Dr. Celia Lam-

kin, chairperson of the USP4GG Marianas Chapter and secretary, board member, and founding member of the national group, said that USP4GG officers and members in the U.S. support the petition, which she initiated.

In fact, she said, USP4GG national chair Loida Nicolas Lewis and USP4GG president Rodel Rodis will be sending the petition to Boehner and the chairman and vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Judiciary on Immigration.

"We will be asking other Filipino-Americans in the U.S. mainland and the global Filipinos in diaspora and the Philippines to ask their friends, relatives, and colleagues in the U.S. to call or write their respective [lawmakers] in the U.S. House of Representatives to support this petition to include the undocumented immigrants in the CNMI and pathway to citizenship to those who have been working legally on or before May 8, 2008, or five years prior to the signing of this immigration bill into law," she said.

'Dig Into Reading' participants tour Kiosku

Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku



MARK RABAGO

Participants and volunteers of the "Dig Into Reading" Summer Program join Joeten-Kiyu Public Library staff and members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council for a group photo following a field trip to the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku last Friday.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

More than 70 participants and volunteers of the "Dig Into Reading" Summer Program of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library visited the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku last Friday.

At the Kiosku, they learned that its literal translation in Chamorro is "roundhouse" and that it is situated close to where the original *kiosku* stood, which is where the present day U.S. Post Office now sits.

Architect Herman Cabrera, whose firm designed and built the memorial, said the site was a gathering place for locals after World War II.

"After the war our municipality center was located east of the post office. The original

kiosku, post-war, was right in the corner. The original *kiosku* was used as a gathering place for Chamorros and Carolinians and it was used for festival, parties, and other functions," he said.

Cabrera designed what he calls a "living memorial" by infusing elements of the old *kiosku* with the Chamorro and Carolinian culture.

He said the latte stone in the present day structure mimics the design of the old *kiosku* but with a concrete roof instead of a thatched one to make it typhoon-resistant.

"My firm copied the original *kiosku* but made it more durable and aesthetically pleasing and made it more functional."

The modern Kiosku—which was built using \$500,000 in federal grants

and took four years to complete—features a central wall where the names of previous CNMI administrators, lawmakers, governors, and other politicians are inscribed.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, which oversees the monument, needs between \$30,000 and \$40,000 annually to maintain it, according to its chair, Ramon B. Camacho.

The upkeep is sourced from the council's yearly budget, but Camacho has plans to make the Kiosku generate its own income by, for instance, opening a gift shop.

William Torres said the idea of the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku was borne out of the municipal council's desire to honor the CNMI's previous leaders as well as educate Common-

wealth youth about the history of the islands.

The field trip last Friday was part of the "Dig Into Reading" program's slew of activities last week. It started with arts and crafts on July 23, a movie feature called *Nim's Island* on July 24, and writing tips from local author Riza Oledan-Ramos on July 25.

JKPL Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi reminds participants that today is the deadline for the submission of their reading challenge booklet. Those who are able to read at least 10 books will spin a roulette wheel and get a chance to win prizes from the program's many sponsors.

JKPL's "Dig Into Reading" summer program has been ongoing since 2006.

FHB report: Guam's biz activity up 1.37 pct. for 1st half of 2013

Hagåtña, Guam—The 2013 second quarter First Hawaiian Bank Business Activity Report for Guam showed a decline of 1.54 percent in "same store sales" over the second quarter of 2012, according to Laura Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and Guam/CNMI region manager. For the first half of 2013, overall growth for the island was 1.37 percent.

"This second quarter, we saw strong gains in shipping, restaurants and home improvement with seven out of the 11 sectors posting positive gains compared to second quarter 2012, indicating that consumer confidence is steady," stated Dacanay. "The recent weakening of the yen appears to have affected Guam's tourism sector somewhat as hotels, travel agencies and retail declined this quarter."

The Guam BAR tracks sales

activity in 11 different economic sectors including retail, hotels, home improvement, restaurants, and travel activities, among others.

First Hawaiian is a major processor of debit and credit card sales transactions. In 2012, the bank processed over \$4.3 billion worth of credit and debit card sales transactions in Hawaii, U.S. mainland, Guam and CNMI.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with assets of some \$16.4 billion, was founded in 1858 and is the leading bank in Guam with the largest share of loans and deposits in the region. First Hawaiian Bank has over 7,000 merchant locations throughout Hawaii, U.S. Mainland, Guam and CNMI and processes all major U.S. credit cards as well as JCB, China Union Pay and BC Global. (**FHB**)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go to our son, Shaun Phillip Manuel Babauta, who is celebrating his 14th birthday today, July 31! Also a belated happy birthday to our daughter, Vinicia Shaena Nicole Deleon Guerrero, who turned 15 on July 19! We love you both and enjoy your special day! Greetings come from Mom Melva, Dad Wilson, and brother JhunJhun.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miah withdraws 'global plea deal'

The controversial Mohammad Jahangir Miah appeared yesterday afternoon in Superior Court for a change of plea hearing, but told the judge he does not want to go forward with a "global plea deal" that supposedly will resolve his seven criminal cases without

going to trial.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo said this means Miah's trial will proceed.

Miah appeared with his counsel, attorney Colin Thompson.

Chief prosecutor Shelli Neal represented the government.

Miah, 38, did not say in open court why he does not want to proceed with the plea agreement.

The proposed jail term and other conditions in the plea agreement were not disclosed.

In 2012 and early this year, the Superior Court dismissed three criminal cases charging Miah with receiving stolen items, violating the terms of

his release in other cases, and criminal contempt.

In July 2012, the federal court acquitted him in a criminal case of conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks.

In March 2013, the federal court sentenced Miah to 21 months in prison for the production of fraudulent CNMI driver's licenses. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

'Giant squid astern sir!'

» Protein-packed squid show promise in the Cook Islands

The first trials seeking to catch giant squid off Aitutaki in the Cook Islands netted a haul of four diamondback squids and a neon flying squid after the first casting of nine fishing lines last Saturday, July 27, 2013.

The squid, weighing from 8 to almost 17 kilograms, offer a potential new source of protein for fishers seeking alternative sources of food and livelihoods in the Pacific.

"We were all very excited by our haul," said Secretariat of Pacific Community's master fisherman William Sokimi.

SPC is working with the Cook Islands' Ministry of Marine Resources to investigate the potential of a squid fishery around Aitutaki and will also conduct trials further south, around Rarotonga.

Sokimi is training MMR fisheries officers Richard Story and observer captain Saiai Sarau in the appropriate fishing techniques. If it all works, the fisheries officers will then share their skills with the local fishers. The FV *Mary Jane*, owned by the Baxter brothers, local Aitutaki fishermen, is being used in the first Cook Island trials.

"So far, it is looking very promising. Even though the weather was very poor with rough seas and strong winds, even in the lee of the island, we had a good catch and we have now established that giant squid can be caught in the Cook Islands," said Sokimi.



SPC

Mark Baxter and William Sokimi show off the diamond back and neon flying squid they caught off Aitutaki in the Cook Islands.

This trial follows a similar trial carried out last year in New Caledonia. Over a total of eight fishing days, vertical drifting lines 500 meters in length were set at depths of 1500 to 2000 meters.

"The results there far exceeded our hopes," said Sokimi. "No less than 70 squid, amounting to a total weight of 785 kilograms were caught, and it's looking like it will be a similar story here."

SPC researchers believe that even if the price paid for giant squid is not high enough to consider exporting it from the Pacific to Japan, it could be very feasible as a new resource for coastal fishers targeting local markets and restaurants.

And Sokimi is so positive that he's promoting a book of 53 diamondback squid recipes,

developed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency and the Dominican Fisheries Division.

Two species of commercially exploitable giant squid occur in the Pacific: the diamondback squid (*Thysanoteuthis rhombus*)—or *sei-ika*, as it is known in Okinawa, where it is exported to the main islands of Japan to be consumed raw as sashimi or sushi—and the neon flying squid (*Ommastrephes bartramii*).

However, the diamondback squid needs to be managed carefully. Unlike other squid, they pair up and live as a couple.

"It's a fragile resource liable to shrink rapidly if overfished," said Sokimi. "We need to work with local fishers to develop and manage the fishery sustainably." (SPC)

AlumKnight creates internship at Bridge Capital

While many students and graduates invest a lot of time into applying for summer jobs and internships, Keolester "Keo" Buenpacifico got creative by securing with a big company an internship that he essentially created.

Buenpacifico, a Mount Carmel School AlumKnight, successfully landed an internship at Bridge Capital LLC, a Saipan-based international investment, banking, and asset management company.

He got the internship idea as soon as he started his spring 2013 semester at the University of Southern California, where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Economics.

Buenpacifico previously worked and gained marketing experience from the Northern Marianas College's external relations office. With this knowledge, he decided to apply for an internship in a

CNMI company involved in financial services. Although Bridge Capital was an obvious choice, Keo learned that the company did not offer any internships.

Undeterred, Buenpacifico emailed his resume and a cover letter to the company.



Buenpacifico

Soon after sending in his material, he followed up with Bridge Capital's chief asset manager and office manager Allen Perez. After checking with the company's owners, John Baldwin and Shawn Scott, Perez informed the student that the company was ready and eager to bring him on board for the summer.

He was elated: "I am grateful to Bridge Capital owners John Baldwin and Shawn Scott for granting me such an opportunity."

Since coming on board, Buenpacifico has performed valuations on business and real estate opportunities, conduct-

ed market research for current investment opportunities, and created assessments of local and international investment offers. One particular project involved valuing and pricing for purchase property in Hawaii that has a restaurant tenant. Based on the valuing and pricing, the property will then be assessed for its investment and revenue potential and a recommendation will be issued to the company whether or not to invest in the property.

When asked about how he felt about pushing for the internship, Buenpacifico said: "It just goes to show that reaching out and going beyond your comfort zone can pay off. It reminded me of something my teacher once taught me, a quote from Virgil: 'Fortune favors the bold.'"

Buenpacifico returns to USC this fall to continue his studies. After earning his degree, he plans to earn an MBA, which he will use to work in investment banking, perhaps one day owning his own firm. (Moneth G. Deposa)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK II

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Presiding Judge and under the direct supervision of the Superior Court Clerk of Court on Saipan. The work involves the exercise of independent judgment and taking independent action in accordance with established policies, practices and court procedures. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Receive, review and record documents filed for hearings;
- Review documents presented by litigants for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court rules;
- Track cases taken under advisement, ensure updates of same and provide periodic reports to the Clerk of Court and affected judges;
- Set the court calendar and adjust the same to maximize courtroom time and meet unusual situations;
- Prepare bench warrants, subpoenas, summons and other related documents for issuance;
- Assess fines, receive and account for monies, issue receipts, prepare deposit slips, and make disbursements when ordered or directed;
- Interpret and disseminate information, policies, and procedures governing the hearing of cases;
- Assist with the certification of records in cases appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court;
- Serve as a courtroom clerk for the judges, which includes but is not limited to the following: ensuring courtroom readiness for proceedings, attending court sessions, administering oaths to witnesses, operating electronic recording equipment, listing all relevant portions of proceedings on a log, receiving, marking and assuming responsibility of all introduced evidence, and performing translation during proceedings;
- Assist the Clerk of Court with Jury Trial Coordination. Compile, track, and update applicable lists of Commonwealth citizens eligible for jury service, and
- Performs other related duties as assigned by the Presiding Judge and/or Superior Court Clerk of Court.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate should have any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in business administration or related field, plus a minimum of four (4) years of experience in law, law enforcement, court administration or related work. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a bachelor's degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be \$25,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-025

TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced engineering and certified specialist firms for the out of service inspection and integrity testing of the above ground oil storage tank (AST) # 103 and connected pipeline within the secondary containment at CUC Power Plant No. 1 in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The inspection is expected to be in two phases:

1. **Out of service pre-repair inspection after tank cleaning, and**
2. **Final tank inspection after performing the necessary repairs based on the scope of work developed during Phase 1.**

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 14, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Coast Guard crew completes multi-beach cleanup on Tinian



Crew members of the Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* are joined by acting Tinian mayor Antonio SN. Borja and Councilman Estevan P. Cabrera at the Unai Dankulu Beach on Tinian. **USCG**

Crewmembers from Coast Guard cutter *Assateague*, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Apra Harbor Guam, completed a cleanup of eight beaches on the island of Tinian on Thursday, July 25.

The crew walked, waded, and swam around the sharp-edged reefs that separated each beach to successfully collect over 850 cubic feet of marine debris, equivalent to the waste generated by an average U.S. household over a two-week span, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The majority of the trash collected was plastic and glass washed ashore by the driving currents.

Several kayaks were transported aboard *Assateague* from Guam to create makeshift catamarans, allowing the crew to

more easily transport the volumes of trash collected from the remote beaches of Unai Dankulu to the main beach.

The multi-beach cleanup was undertaken not only in an effort to beautify the island but also to remove marine debris that affects endangered sea turtles nesting in the area.

Sea turtles are at risk from accidental ingestion of marine debris or deadly entanglement on beaches and in the ocean. The sheer amount of garbage littering the beaches also complicates the turtles' ability to lay eggs, further threatening the survival of the species. Most marine debris is plastic—items from land-based litter and fishing waste that last for decades in the ocean.

A total of 17 crewmembers

traveled from Guam for the beach cleanup.

The cleanup was more significant for Ensign Freddy Hofschneider, who hails from the island of Tinian. "This event was a humble experience for me being a part of the cleanup," he said. "It definitely meant a lot to return back to Tinian and make a positive impact for my island community. I appreciate everyone who was involved in coordinating this event and look forward for more opportunities to come."

Acting Tinian mayor Antonio SN. Borja was present at Unai Dankulu Beach, along with other dignitaries to extend a warm welcome and appreciation to the crew.

He said, "On behalf of the people of Tinian, I would like

to say thank you and *si yu'us ma'ase* to our friends from the Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* who traveled from Guam to spearhead the community service event. Their efforts at the coastal and beach areas on the northeast side of Tinian were a tremendous help for our island and it has not gone unnoticed. I was surprised when I saw over 70 garbage bags that were collected in just a seven-hour span. We are truly grateful for their help and we welcome them back to our beautiful island anytime soon. I hope this could be a start to stronger ties between the island of Tinian and the U.S. Coast Guard."

Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* and Naval Base Guam Public Works Department, Environmental Division coordi-

nated the event with the Tinian Mayor's Office, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Lands and Natural Resources. The joint effort was also made possible with the assistance of the Tinian Municipal Council, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Department of Public Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Tinian Public School System.

Assateague's commanding officer, Lt. Jared Silverman, shared his enthusiasm for the event and the outstanding cooperation between the parties involved. "This was an outstanding opportunity for the crew to experience Tinian's history, culture, and community while making positive strides to help maintain its beautiful beaches and waters.

The support we received from local organizations and the public was invigorating, and we look forward continuing our relationship with the great people of Tinian."

Tinian is part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and is located 100 miles north of Guam. The island is home to about 3,100 residents and was crucial to the Allied war effort during World War II.

The *Assateague* is a 110-foot Island-Class patrol boat. Its missions include search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, ports waterways and coastal security and national defense. The *Assateague* has an area of responsibility equivalent to the size of the continental United States. (**USCG**)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 31, 2005

Confab turns into political rally

Friday's youth workforce-related conference turned into an arena for local politicians, including three gubernatorial candidates—Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, and Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider—to throw punches at each other. Tension filled the Hyatt Regency Hotel Saipan's Sandcastle Room Friday morning after a 16-year-old Youth Congress member, Marianas Baptist Academy student Roselle D. Calvo, stood up and questioned Babauta on his pronouncement that the state of the CNMI "is

still pretty darn good." "Mr. Governor, in your State of the Commonwealth Address, you described the state of our economy as being 'still pretty darn good' but I don't think that's the reality. I don't think the economy is doing good," said Calvo.

Sablan favors hiring DC consultant

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan favors the government's continued hiring of a consultant to lobby for the amendment of Headnote 3(a) in Washington D.C., agreeing that its services are most needed at this time. "The SCC implores and supports the administration to continue this extremely im-

portant trade work of Sandler, Travis and Rossenborg to provide the best opportunity for the tariff amendment of Headnote 3(a)," said Sablan. He said "the numbers are real—the apparel industry has been declining, as have revenues for all." "We need to achieve this amendment quickly or buyers will source from alternative regions. We look forward to assisting the Lt. Governor [and] Washington Representative as they push for the fast tracked passage of the amendment," Sablan said.

July 31, 2006

Cuts go deep in new budget plan

Faced with a dwindling revenue collection, the CNMI government will have no option but to further tighten its belt as it enters a new fiscal year in October 2006. The FY2007 appropriation bill, approved by the House

of Representatives Friday, proposes deep cuts for most government agencies. This comes in line with the nearly \$20-million reduction sought for the entire government. Several programs are slated to receive as little as half of their previous funding in the administration-backed budget plan, which caps government spending at \$193.5 million. The Department of Public Works, for instance, will receive only \$5.9 million in FY2007. This represents a 57.82-percent reduction from the \$9.3 million DPW used to receive under the last CNMI budget, which was enacted for FY2003.

Northern wins 2006 Little Miss Marianas

Exuding an elegant aura, calm confidence, and stunning presence, 8-year-old Opal Leeann Hamilton Northern emerged as this year's Little Miss Marianas, besting seven other young girls

in a competition held Saturday night at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. "I'm so proud of my daughter," said her teary-eyed mother, former beauty titlist Ruby Hamilton Northern. Ruby was seated beside her husband, Rick Northern, at the front row, holding and pressing his hands during the tense moment while awaiting the announcement of the top winners. The night felt like Ruby's own victory, too, as people flanked to her seat hugging, congratulating her for her daughter's feat.

July 31, 2007

Storm Usagi now a typhoon, leaves Marianas

Tropical Storm Usagi was upgraded to typhoon status yesterday, but all advisories were cancelled as the typhoon had already moved away from the Marianas region. As of 1pm yesterday, the center of Typhoon

Usagi was already 245 miles west-northwest of Agrihan, 270 miles west-northwest of Pagan, 290 miles west-northwest of Alamagan, 410 miles northwest of Saipan, and 480 miles north-northwest of Guam.

'No adult day care available in CNMI'

The CNMI is the only "state" in the U.S. political union that doesn't have adult day care, according to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Office on Aging. This was raised during the public hearing of the Office on Aging relating to its four-year State Plan on Aging Title III Thursday last week. "We are the only State in the Union that doesn't have adult day care for the aging population that are still able to sit up or equipped with home health equipment and wants to congregate with seniors that are in the same predicament," part of the State Plan reads.

CDA: Amend but not eliminate QC program

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In these times of economic distress, the Commonwealth government has more reasons to sustain its qualifying certificate program to entice investors that could help turn around the islands' economy, according to Commonwealth Development Authority executive director Manuel Sablan.

This is why, he said, the agency remains opposed to the idea of eliminating the program for alleged failure to meet its mission and objectives.

The government's qualifying certificate program was created in 2000 just as the Commonwealth's garment industry was folding up and leaving the islands. The program aims to attract investors by offering tax relief for up to 25 years.

CDA remains convinced that the program has been successful in meeting expectations, citing new investments and jobs cre-

ated in the past 13 years since the program's inception.

The abolition of the QC program keeps surfacing due to a belief that it provides too generous incentives, leaving the CNMI with little benefit. A bill proposing its abolition is pending in the Legislature.

Sablan said that CDA is open to possible amendments to the law that created the QC program but not for its complete abolition.

"If they want to change... the law, let's talk about it. But abolishing the QC program... my question really is the timing because now is the time we need to entice more companies to come in, new investments that will create new jobs for our people," said Sablan.

The CDA board is given the flexibility to decide on the terms and limits on the incentives that will be given to a QC recipient. Sablan pointed out that all CDA board decisions are based on extensive deliberations and docu-

ments such as the business plans of applicants.

The original law that first created the QC program made it available only to new investors. This was amended later to include existing businesses for their expansion purposes.

Terminating the program at this time, Sablan said, will have a negative impact on the already tenuous economy of the CNMI. Prospective investors, he said, may be lured to other areas for their investments such as in Southeast Asia where similar programs are well-established.

He also pointed out that the CNMI's QC program is relatively new and should not be taken away for reasons that are hard to justify.

"What would you lose when in the first place, the investment wasn't there? The question that should be raised is: should any assistance be provided to an industry or company that is already providing the services and investment?" he asked.

Japanese mag to give NMI \$120K ad exposure

CREA Traveller magazine of Japan arrived in the Northern Marianas yesterday, July 30, to work on an advertorial that will bring about \$120,000 worth of advertising exposure to this Pacific beach resort destination.

CREA Traveller has a circulation of 59,000 and targets mature women who embrace life "beyond the borders of

culture and values." The Marianas Visitors Authority will run an 8-page advertorial in the autumn issue of the magazine to promote travel during the slower shoulder season. *CREA Traveller* will introduce visitor activities on Saipan and Tinian with the theme "Petit Vacance in Marianas."

The editorial team will be in

the Northern Marianas until Friday, Aug. 2. The MVA is also assisting the team with hotel accommodations, shooting arrangements, group transportation, and film permitting.

CREA Traveller is published by Bungei Shunju and has been in existence since 2000, targeting women who are interested in travel. *(MVA)*

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

880 Duty Free is inviting qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions:

Training Manager (01)

Job Duties: Trains and leads the team to execute and present the best displays in Kanoa and Fiesta Resort. In charge of organizing the layout and order of the retail store to facilitate the customer's shopping experience. Makes the decisions on what items stay on the floor and what placement ensures the best sales. Drive branding and business objectives/sales through excellent execution of visual merchandising and presentation. Utilize all company tools, visual talent, and knowledge to plan, map, and execute monthly floor sets incorporating appropriate store specific adaptations as necessary. Develop and implement brand appropriate solutions to address these unique needs. Continually analyze and respond to business/selling trends, assortment needs, and guest feedback--proactively adapt merchandising and presentations as needed. Ensure all signing and graphics are installed and maintained to company standards. Maintain two-way communication with appropriate partners regarding visual merchandising and store maintenance. Greet all guests with a genuine/authentic smile and personalized offer to help with their shopping needs when appropriate. Actively participate in store-related meetings, training sessions, and store visits. Receptive to feedback and coaching. Personally support each season's trends and the brand's forward direction as outlined in the company dress code policy. Maintain neat, orderly, and accessible, prop and sign storage areas. Other duties and responsibilities as needed.

Requirements: College degree preferred. Minimum of 2 years experience in visual merchandising, presentation, and training. Specialty retailer preferred. Must have excellent customer service skills. Strong demonstrated visual merchandising/presentation skills--detail oriented and self-motivated to execute to the highest standards. Innovative thinker/problem solver. Knowledgeable of current fashion and visual merchandising trends and able to effectively interpret/apply to our brand. Able to read and analyze retail reports and take action as necessary to adjust merchandising and presentation set ups. Proficient with basic computer programs (Word, Excel, Outlook), digital photography, and basic photo software. Strong interpersonal skills--written and verbal communication; listening and follow through. Able to articulate and explain ideas and concepts. Strong time management skills. Ability to set and achieve goals in a timely manner. Strong organizational and process planning skills. Attention to details. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Salary will be paid and positions will be filled commensurate with qualification, work experience and ability to perform. Worksite locations are on Saipan and at all 880 Duty Free and Century Tours, Inc. offices. Applications may be obtained at the Century Tours, Inc. Office at the Kanoa Resort Ground Floor located on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than Friday, August 01, 2013. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

We are an Equal Employment Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions:

Presenter & Trainer (01)

Job Duties: A key role for product selling by presenting products in variety of attractive and interesting ways, also should be qualified as a trainer for tour guide for promoting tour service. Make presentation to visitors as per company's presentation materials and requirements to make visitors experience the local culture and warm welcome. Work closely with management team to conduct training material either for tour guide or presentation related, including participant binders and handouts, signage, etc. Ensure appropriate supplies are on site for all events. Provide on site staffing logistics management and support staffing during training events. Summarize evaluation reports for trainings and providing outcomes to management team within on week of each training. Support administrative functions of training program and staff as needed (includes but not limited to : correspondence with training participants and clients, date entry, filing, photocopying, scheduling, booking travel, etc.) Maintain and update files (hard & electronic copies) pertaining to training programs and perform revisions as necessary, including creation of new presentations, handouts or case studies, keep training materials up to date. Project management and/or administrative support for ongoing efforts in the areas of marketing, materials production, etc. A carrier of company culture delivery and team building activities. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree or equal degree. Previous presenter & trainer or relevant experience preferred. Positive interpersonal skills. High skill of presentation and sales ability. Good computer and typing skills are required. Excel and Word proficiency. Excellent listening and comprehension skills. Excellent customer service skills. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Accounting Manager (01)

Job Duties: Establish financial status by developing and implementing systems for collecting, analyzing, verifying, and reporting financial information. Manage staff. Accomplishes accounting human resource objectives. Communicate job expectations; planning, monitoring, appraising, and reviewing job contributions. Plan and review compensation actions. Enforce policies and procedures. Achieve accounting operational objectives by contributing accounting information and recommendations to strategic plans and reviews. Prepare and complete action plans. Implement productivity, quality, and customer-service standards. Resolve problems, complete audits, identify trends. Determine system improvements and implement change. Meet accounting financial objectives. Prepare annual budget. Schedule expenditures. Analyze variances, initiate corrective actions. Confirm financial status by monitoring revenue and expenses. Coordinate the collection, consolidation, and evaluation of financial data. Prepare special reports. Maintain accounting controls by establishing a chart of accounts; defining accounting policies and procedures. Guide other departments by researching and interpreting accounting policy. Apply observations and recommendations to operational issues. Maintain financial security by establishing internal controls. Avoid legal challenges by understanding current and proposed legislation. Enforce accounting regulations and recommend new procedures. Protect organization's value by keeping information confidential. Updates job knowledge by participating in educational opportunities. Participate in professional organizations. Accomplishes accounting and organization mission by completing related results as needed.

Requirements: College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. Excellent customer service skills. Knowledge of standard office equipments. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Front Desk (02)

Job Duties: Interact with guests and ensure they have a great experience during their stay. Responsible for responding to guest calls or inquiries about room reservations, to provide information and reserve rooms for guests. Answer incoming calls and assist with reservations, confirmations, room need requests, and questions. Explain products, service and other info as requested. Sell, process and enter and confirm room reservations using selling techniques and strategies. Greet guests warmly and perform registration procedures. Provide guests with appropriate room assignments, room keys, directions to the rooms, while up-selling when appropriate. Verify payment for stay including incidental costs by obtaining credit information. Assist guests with issues and complaints, with empathy and a focus on guest satisfaction, use supervisor support when necessary. Answer incoming calls in a timely manner with appropriate greeting. Maintain accurate logs of mail, packages, parcels or other items for guest delivery. Post charges to guest accounts as designated. Facilitate guest departures providing accurate statements and ensuring guest satisfaction and collecting all payments due. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent. Previous guest service and reservations experience preferred. Positive interpersonal skills required. Good computer and typing skills are required. Excel and Word proficiency desired. Previous experience preferred. Excellent listening and comprehension skills required. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

IT Network Technician (01)

Job Duties: Daily IT system and server maintaining, problem solving to ensure daily IT system working smoothly. Monitor and provide solution for network security. Provide on-going communication with Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing and other satellite offices and local departments regarding server problem or other issues when needed. Maintain the enterprise's IT security documents (policies, standards, guidelines and procedures). Perform regular security awareness/IT knowledge for all employees to ensure consistently high levels of compliance with enterprise security documents. Provide orientation to new users of existing technology. Maintain log and/or list of required repairs and maintenance when cost occurs or same problem comes often. Provide network access, email account set up, PC preparation, etc. for new employee before joining. Operate as technician during tour presentation, such as light adjusting, music controlling, etc. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: At least 4 years Bachelor degree in computer science or relevant field. At least 2 years prior experience required, both on IT industry and Exhibition industry. Be familiar with hardware and software, network operating system/administration/installation, Email and internet programs, computer viruses and security. Flexibility to perform assigned tasks independently or as part of a work team. Sense of urgency. Ability to manage multiple priorities and meet frequent short timeline goals and deadlines. Knowledge of ERP is preferred. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Salary will be paid and positions will be filled commensurate with qualification, work experience and ability to perform. Worksite locations are on Saipan and at all 880 Duty Free and Century Tours, Inc. offices. Applications may be obtained at the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than Friday, August 01, 2013. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 151Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

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MRC.org/CMI
Dist. by King Features

WHEN THE MOJO AND VIAGRA RUN OUT AT THE SAME TIME.

Obama's defensive offensive

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.

President Obama sounds like a man back on the offensive. The president is reprising his core message that what the economy needs is more federal spending on popular priorities such as infrastructure and education, not less.

And his stump speeches last week in Illinois, Missouri and Florida put Republicans on notice that he will blame them if a standoff over spending results in a government shutdown or a financial crisis over the federal debt ceiling this fall.

"Repealing Obamacare and cutting spending is not an economic plan," Obama lectured his opponents. "You can't just be against something; you've got to be for something."

But is that true?

House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, doesn't seem to think so. When asked recently about the glacial pace of legislation in the House, he responded: "We should not be judged on how many new laws we create. We ought to be judged on how many laws that we repeal."

Boehner has a point. The number of bills a Congress passes is no guarantee that it's doing important work. Roughly a third of the measures Congress passes are inconsequential actions such as renaming post offices.

But there's also a flaw in Boehner's argument. Although the current Congress is on pace to pass even fewer laws than the previous one (which set a modern record for lack of productivity), it hasn't succeeded in repealing many laws either. The GOP-led House has voted nearly 40 times to repeal all or part of Obama's health-care law, for example, but hasn't succeeded in overturning the act—although it has cut its funding.

Boehner has said he has no intention of shutting down the government during budget talks this fall, a move he believes would be counterproductive.

As one of his allies, Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., put it last week: "The only way Republicans will lose the House is to shut down the government or default on the debt. Shutting down the government is not in the best interests of the American people, and it makes you look politically irresponsible."

But Boehner doesn't always control the majority of his own caucus. Tea party radicals in both chambers of Congress are demanding a hard line, with some, including Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, promising to block any increase in the federal debt ceiling unless Obama's health-care law is repealed—a proposal another Republican, Sen. Richard M. Burr of North Carolina, called "the dumbest idea I ever heard."

That's no guarantee it won't gain traction. Members of Congress in safely partisan districts—including some liberal Democrats as well as tea party conservatives—can be remarkably indifferent to broader public opinion. That's one reason Congress' approval rating dropped last week to an all-time low of 12 percent in the NBC News-Wall Street Journal Poll, far below Obama's anemic rating of 45 percent.

It's also well below the level Congress sank to last year, when Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., joked that its only remaining supporters were "paid staff and blood relatives."

See OBAMA on Next Page

A marathon return

If not for rain and mudslides, we probably would have shot our wad in Sichuan's Tibetan Autonomous Region, and we'd probably be floating down the Yangtze without a paddle on our return. The rule that we could only stay in authorized hotels for foreigners doubled our budget. We thought of heading to Aksu in Xinjiang but they did not have a river to float out of should we run out of *jiao*!

So after counting our *renminbi*, we sweated it out in Chongqing, stayed calm and cool in the environs of the Taoist Wudangshan, and watched the granary of mass humanity in Zhengzhou, Henan, and Beijing. Which is just as well. Gansu along our way had we taken the Silk Road had two quakes that has now counted a hundred dead.

It was a late night train ride to Zhengzhou from Taoist Wudangshan in Shiyang where we encountered raw humanity en masse. Zhengzhou in the last 50 years became a transportation hub that propelled her into a Henan center. It began as an ancient city of the Neolithic Shang Dynasty before Qin Shi Huang consolidated China. A part of the rich agricultural land of the Central Plains, it and its neighbor Kaifeng were hub of transportation along the mighty Huanghe.

Its evolution into a 10 million populated metropolis followed the yin-yang convulsive/serene path of the Han civilization between the two waterway titans of the Yellow and Yangtze rivers. (He = river, Bei = north, Nan = south; thus, the provinces of Hebei and Henan are north and south of the river, in this case, the Huanghe, aka Yellow River).

We made an overnight reservation at a one-star Home Inn in Zhengzhou from Shiyang but discovered upon check-in that they were not allowed to billet "foreign running dogs" (a cultural revolution phrase) so we moseyed over to the tall and imposing three-star Zhengzhou Tian Bian, a total disaster for a three-star though it felt like we were paying for the Astoria. The hotel cast a shadow on the train station and we just needed sleep space for a very early morning run for Beijing, so we acquiesced.

We meandered at dusk, then early dawn on the wide square fronting the train station on one side, and the bus station on the other. The rude and vocally angry crowd with accommodating *tao*-resigned China both lingered around for transport. Folks with plastic luggage claimed their space in the square to sleep the night away under the heavy smog with not a twinkle in the sky. The scene can easily prelude a revolution, or a context for a deep journey to the abyss.

We lucked out on a sleeping berth in the train to Beijing as the regular passenger cars burst at the seams. Terminating at the new humongous center of Railway West, we needed to get to the old Railway downtown. Knowing Beijing to be the most rational city

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

in the Asian mainland, we deferred from taking the proscribed bus outside that attendants pointed us to, and explored subway possibilities through maps and directions on the walls. Since a line stopped at the terminal, we followed two transfers and we were where we wanted to go at 5 percent cost of the bus charge, and time to spare!

China's humanity is moving this summer. In Zhengzhou, I skipped the wonton soup and *chow mein*. I yielded to KFC's allure; in Beijing, I availed of McDough's aircon. Mac occupies a storefront next to the train gate. Unfortunately, a million Chinese had the same sentiment re cool air. I had my first double decker in 20 years anyway!

Though everyone has reserved train seats, China has an aversion to the queue so the dash to the platform and the seats is an Olympic event. I was shocked in CQ when a taxi actually stopped so I can cross the pedestrian lane! There is no such deference in any other customer-oriented service, not the least the rails. (I did occasion a queue on a bus in Shenyang once when I blew my classroom whistle for the transit passengers to line up!)

Ever optimistic, I expected it to be different with the modern D-lines of the CHR fast trains. Our Beijing to Shenyang five-hour run pared the normal travel by three hours. The clientele was economically more upscale than our *hoi polloi* in the other portions of the travel where "in trash we trust" is evidently the motto. Cultural practice, however, had not changed much. Only this time, the social stratification was pronounced. The more upscale clientele trashed as well but they expected paid personnel to clean up after them!

Since we experienced mudslides and swollen waters in Sichuan, we are uneasy at the devastation visited upon Gansu now in the news. Two quakes less than 6 on the Richter scale followed one after the other occurred but with shallow centers, which made them more destructive.

But we made it back with some *renminbi* to spare for the abundant peaches and grapes in the street market. But we are with T. S. Elliott on this one: *We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.*

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Search for needle of values

The task to revive the local economy instantly turns into a very exasperating and exhausting search for a teeny tiny needle in a haystack.

It's mired in complexity, consistently flooded by the ghosts of a once prosperous archipelago in the '80s. It's now a total bust, depicting the fragility of island economies anywhere in the region.

You rummage through available information in hopes of understanding and pinning the root cause of the mounting fiscal meltdown.

Everybody agrees it's vital taking proactive roles in it. Disconcerting, though, that "after all is said and done, a lot more is said than done." Most are out of focus on paradigms on how to fix the mess.

We refuse to accept the heavy decibels of bust and the accompanying reality of economic annihilation. It's torching every corner of these isles.

Indeed, small as it may be, an island economy is very difficult to plan for. We're land rich, resource-poor. Beyond the service industry swaying loosely at the base, there's nothing else to rely upon in these bad times.

In our unsuspecting ways, we know the issue pertains to people whose livelihood is relegated in the filthy swamp of misery. This isn't the "American Dream" suspected as inclusive under the Covenant Agreement, is it?

Crisis of values

Most politicians have now set their eyes on next year's gubernatorial contest and re-election. Incumbents know they've royally failed the multitude. Many folks are caught in the vicious whirlwind of joblessness and hopelessness. This issue alone makes visiting the campaign trail a bit more difficult for incumbents who rank among the "Do-Nothings."

Disgraced, impeached, and now "hiding" former governor BR Fitial, a terminal ingrate, has royally blundered the economic well-being of our people. He knows that his favorite dish of steak and lobster isn't part of the DOC menu. A dreadful issue offers an explanation why he steers clear of his future abode in Susupe. He faces a lengthy legal battle ahead. His absence has frustrated the choir who's been rehearsing "Daddy's Home."

Korea and the power of politics

SEOUL—Americans like to pretend that politics don't matter and to bemoan the slight differences between our political parties. These are luxuries we can afford as the world's richest and most stable country. But for much of the world, politics are a matter of life and death. That is particularly evident in South Korea, which over this past weekend celebrated the 60th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War.

It is hard to exaggerate how devastated the Korean peninsula was in 1953; Gen. Douglas MacArthur said he vomited after he looked "at that wreckage." Three years of conflict killed about 3 million people, most of them civilians. One-third of all homes and two-fifths of all factories were destroyed. Seoul, Pyongyang and all other cities were little more than rubble. Food was scarce, orphans plentiful.

Both North and South Korea received extensive assistance to rebuild—the former from the Soviet Union and its allies, the latter from the U.S. and its allies. North Korea, using Stalinist central planning, actually had more success initially. Its economy grew faster than South Korea's until the 1970s, helped by the fact that the northern part of the peninsula had more manufacturing facilities to start with. South Korea in the 1950s and 1960s was one of the poorest countries in the world, with per capita income of less than \$100 a head—comparable to the poorest countries of sub-Saharan Africa today.

Kongdan Oh, a scholar at the Brookings Institution who grew up in South Korea in the 1950s, remembers that "food was sometimes scarce."

"In the springtime, after the autumn harvest had been eaten and before new crops could be gathered, poor people would scour the hills for edible herbs and plants, just as they do in North Korea today," she wrote in 2010. "Schoolrooms lacked desks and chairs and had little heat in the winter. Many school children depended on for-

It's the lull or vacuum that we all must endure as conditions worsen. Politicians, however floored, are struggling to domesticate the beast of fiscal meltdown. Flat on their face, they simultaneously rehearse a lackluster "biba."

Give 'em "A" for effort with reciprocal "F" for offering solutions designed to bloat deficit beyond the cumulative debt of some \$740 million.

Piling more debts would severely deepen the fiscal crisis and heavily retard economic growth. This path leads down the road to serfdom and the eventual declaration of bankruptcy. This paradigm is a perfect example of how poorly conceived policies encourage deficit spending. Have we taken a crash course to replicate Detroit, which is drowning in red ink of \$18.5 billion?

I think it's a crisis of values. "It means we prioritize the wrong things and miss what really matters. After reaching Mt. Olympus, the successful rue the way they chose one over the other. From the peak, they know they cannot stay there unless they and all like them turn around and go back for those left behind." Yes, missing what really matters is pandemic not among leadership but what we have in abundance, "followership."

The people's choice: distrust

The elected elite sits pulling its hair while pondering the imminent danger of a fiscal meltdown. The deepening dysfunction has ravaged lives everywhere.

Obviously, the elite is fully wary of the collapse of public confidence in government across all fronts. Each is wary that he or she has failed to improve the lot of their people they represent in our governmental institutions.

Could we take comfort in just being cynical or isn't it true that we all have a stake in the success of government for the government is us? But isn't government equipped with smart people who are supposed to do "smart" things? Ooops! Did I say "smart"?

The crumbling of trust in government started in recent past under impeached former governor Benigno R. Fitial. He literally ruined the economic future of our people. He did nothing but toy with policies to accommodate his "cherry-picked" investors.

eign food donations like powdered milk for their lunch."

It is almost impossible to believe, traveling across South Korea today, that this is the same land. Just 60 years later, according to CIA statistics, South Korea has the 12th-largest economy in the world, with GDP of more than \$1 trillion annually and per-capita income of more than \$32,000. It produces bestselling products such as Hyundai automobiles, LG appliances and Samsung phones. Its exports are worth more than those of the Britain, Saudi Arabia or Switzerland. Its shipyards produce eight times more vessels than their U.S. counterparts. It has even created a pop culture sensation—the singer Psy's "Gangnam Style."

More to the point, but harder to quantify, there is a dynamism and vitality to Korean culture that is evident to anyone who comes here. Seoul, with a population of more than 10 million, is one of the great cities of the world. It has endless miles of high-rise apartment buildings, restaurants, bars, art galleries, stores and, especially, cafes, which seem more ubiquitous than in Seattle. (My favorite chain, purely because of its name, is Angel-in-us.) Commercial districts are lit up in a blaze of garish neon that signals the pleasures to be had within, from fine dining and chic goods comparable to the best L.A. has to offer to karaoke and drinking—lots and lots of drinking.

And the prosperity does not end at the city limits. Busan is a port city in the south that was the last redoubt of U.S. troops ("the Pusan perimeter") in the dark days of 1950 after the North Korean invasion. It is now a flourishing metropolis with glass-and-steel skyscrapers and Korean-style-sashimi restaurants abutting its crowded beaches.

How different is North Korea, which over the last 60 years has performed the unprecedented feat of de-industrializing: It has gone from being the most developed part of the Korean peninsula to a place where millions have died of hunger and hundreds of thousands

who he said were working toward bipartisan compromises.

"The Senate is their only hope," said Norman J. Ornstein, a congressional scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. "If you begin to get 70 or 75 votes for things in the Senate, then you get a different conversation; it becomes clear that there's only one group of people (the House conservatives) standing in the way."

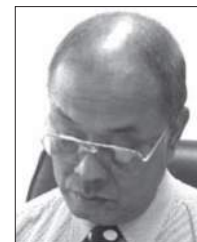
Obama is doing everything he can to cast the opposition as being obstructionist. But will his return to the campaign trail have any real effect on Congress?

The too-easy answer is no. He's given speeches like these before. He's got no new proposals to unveil. And the House members who

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



It puts truth to President Ronald Reagan's argument that not only was "government not the solution, it was a big part of the problem."

Former Speaker Newt Gingrich argues, "People in government aren't simply wrongheaded; they are part of an evil bureaucracy that tolerates fraud in social welfare programs and pursues policies that undermine families."

Unless the elite is willing to put its best foot forward to put a lid on the \$740 million deficit from bloating any further, it would difficult paying for current needs. This it must do in the short-term while it searches to recalibrate investment policies.

How sad the quiet descent down the path of distrust. Is there anybody upstairs who could rebuild the burned bridges of trust? For now the people's choice is in the filthy swamp of distrust.

■ ■ ■

Each time my mind suffers paralysis I'd take a quick cruise along panoramic Beach Road in search of peace and tranquility. It's a way to regroup and even poke humor at my voluntary role as Master of the Universe.

The calm lagoon eases relics of frustration upstairs. I would sometime venture a short walk to see if anything has changed, i.e., major sand shift. None!

I'd take a quick glimpse of the azure skies of paradise dotted by white doves gliding at a distance in and out of the lagoon, freely. Very relaxing! After regrouping, I'd head home admiring the unique ambiance of the calm seas, bright blue skies, green landscape that meets the hills—a tropical splendor only found in these pearly isles. You should do the same for some respite of sanity.

By MAX BOOT

Los Angeles Times

Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



more are imprisoned in Soviet-style gulags. Its per-capita income is among the lowest in the world; its misery among the greatest.

What has made the difference between North and South? Politics, pure and simple. The cultural heritage of the two countries is identical. The difference is that North Korea has been a victim of the Kim dynasty—grandfather Kim Il Sung, son Kim Jong Il, now grandson Kim Jong Un—who are the world's last practitioners of Stalinist collectivism and totalitarianism. South Korea, by contrast, began to take off economically in the 1960s and 1970s under the authoritarian modernizer Park Chung-hee, father of the current president, Park Geun-hye.

Park was a general turned dictator who could give his ham-handed Egyptian counterparts lessons in governing. Like his fellow strongmen Lee Kuan Yew, in Singapore, and the much less benign Augusto Pinochet, in Chile, he put in place policies for economic growth. After Park's assassination in 1979, South Korea entered a period of turmoil that resulted in the emergence of a vibrant democracy to match its flourishing economy. There is no more inspiring story in the world over the past half-century—or a more compelling example of how political decisions can shape people's lives.

stand in his way aren't worried about pressure from voters who support the president; they are more worried about primary challenges from even more conservative Republicans to their right. Speeches from the president aren't going to change their minds.

But that's not what Obama's campaign is about. On one level, it's about influencing votes in the Senate, not the House. And on another, it's about making sure that if this fall's budget battles do result in a government shutdown or, even worse, a financial crisis over the debt ceiling, the president and his party don't get blamed.

Obama may look and sound as if he's on the offensive, but his strategy has an awful lot of defense in it too.

OBAMA

From Page 10






Obama hasn't given up hope that he can spur legislators to action. He's trying to win legislative battles on both immigration and the budget by striking bipartisan compromises in the Senate, which still has a sizable faction of Republicans who say they want to negotiate with the president.

Even as he denounced House Republicans last week, Obama doled out elaborate praise for a few, unnamed Republican senators

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼74
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲92 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80

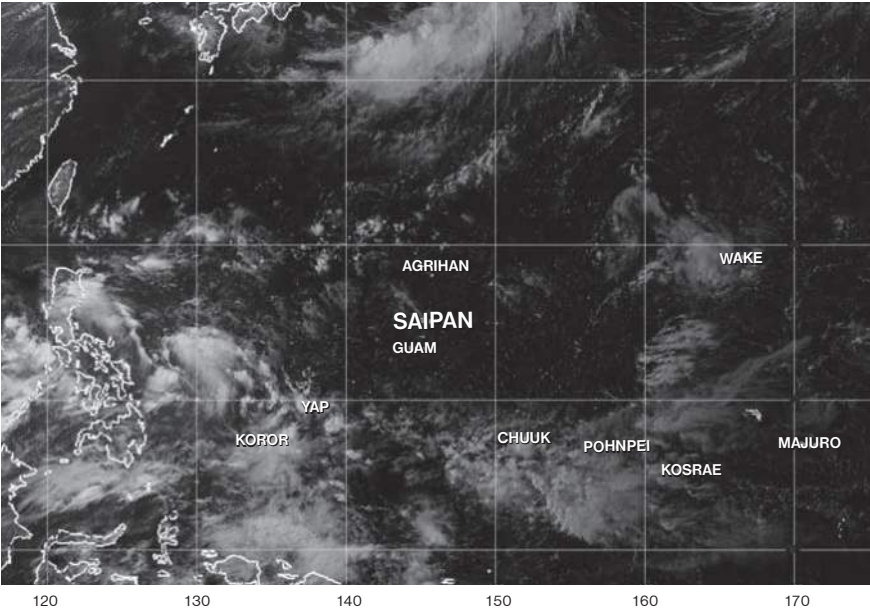
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲60 ▼55
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲88 ▼75
London	Cloudy	▲73 ▼63
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲76 ▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼42
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼69
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼79
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼64
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲91 ▼70
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59 ▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼75
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼72

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:09 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs southeastward from 11N130E to EQ142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen over Koror and Yap or south of a line from 14N130E to 8N141E. A surface trough extends eastward from 5N145E to 4N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present south of Weno and near Pohnpei and Kosrae or within 180 miles of a line from 4N146E to 4N162E. Another surface trough extends northward from 9N162E to 14N163E. Scattered showers are found north of Kosrae between 8N and 14N from 161E to 165E. An upper-level low is centered near 19N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are taking place between Wake Island and Minami Tori Shima within an area bounded by a line from 24N161E to 19N167E to 16N161E to 23N158E back to 24N161E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:25 AM	1:28 PM
Thursday	1:10 AM	2:18 PM
Friday	1:57 AM	3:07 PM
Saturday	2:44 AM	3:54 PM
Sunday	3:33 AM	4:40 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5	MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)				KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7	SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16	XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Gadgets & Gizmos

Electronics sales flat, but tablet and smartphones soar

By MIKE SNIDER
USA TODAY

It seems counterintuitive, but the nation's continuing economic recovery may result in total consumer spending on electronics being flat this year.

The reason: Upbeat buyers have their sights set on bigger-ticket items, including vehicles and homes.

Still, electronics makers have plenty of highlights, with double-digit revenue increases for smartphones, tablets and smart TVs expected this year, according to economic forecasts out today from the Consumer Electronics Association.

Total wholesale sales of smartphones, tablets, TVs and other gadgets will generate an estimated \$202.6 billion in 2013, a 0.2 percent increase over \$202.3 billion last year, the CEA forecasts. But a wave of new gee-whiz TVs and the expected arrival of new video game consoles is expected to boost revenue 4.5 percent in 2014, to \$211.7 billion.

"The brakes have been applied to growth for the time being," says Steve Koenig, CEA's director of industry analysis. "As we look ahead to next year, we anticipate the next wave of growth to manifest."

Among the factors that may lead to flat sales are the effects of the government sequestration and lower-than-expected growth in U.S. gross domestic product. More tangible, Koenig says, is the possibility of the tentative labor market calming and consumers spending on more expensive durable goods, including vehicles and homes.

"The car market is doing well, and the housing market continues to impress with housing starts up," Koenig says. "We think there's some pent-up demand for other durables at work here."

Driving this year's electronics sales—and last year's 3.7 percent rise—has been consumer interest in mobility and constant connectivity. "The industry is really dominated by smartphones and tablets, these mobile connected devices," he says.

Smartphones remain the largest revenue generator, up 14 percent to \$37.9 billion, with unit sales also up 14 percent. Meanwhile, tablet revenues and unit sales are rising

even faster: up 18 percent to \$27.3 billion (unit sales up 45 percent). Household penetration of tablets is expected to rise from about 22 percent of homes having at least one tablet to 44 percent of homes, the CEA says.

New car sales are expected to drive revenue from automotive installed electronics—such as in-vehicle entertainment systems and security and remote-start systems—to \$9.2 billion in 2013, up 17 percent from 2012.

While overall TV and video sales remain flat, there's expected growth in smart TVs—up 34 percent to \$12.4 billion—as well as bigger TVs and new Ultra HDTVs. "They say 60 (inches) is the new 50," Koenig says. "We see even more momentum through Ultra-high-definition and OLED (Organic



Hugo Barra, vice president Android product management at Google, displays the new Nexus 7 tablet on Wednesday, July 24, 2013, in San Francisco.

Light-Emitting Diode) technology; 2014 will be the first year where we really have a full year of sales for these next-generation technologies."

Headphones, soundbars and portable speakers also are all showing growth in audio. Headphone sales are expected to rise 13 percent to \$1.4 billion in 2013; meanwhile, soundbars will generate \$493 million (up 43 percent), and portable speakers, \$302 million (up 35 percent).

The video game segment is projected to be down 2 percent in 2013, with spending on home and portable systems at about \$2.7 billion. But the category should nearly double in 2014 to \$5.3 billion, with Microsoft's Xbox One and Sony's PlayStation 4 expected to have a full year in stores.

"In 2014 is when we also start to see other categories resurgent," Koenig says. "We have a lot of optimism there."

A banner advertising LG Electronics' Optimus G Pro smartphone is displayed on the street in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, July 24, 2013.



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When it comes to technology, nobody has an advantage over the Marianas communications leader.

IT&E changed the face of the local communications scene when the regional powerhouse introduced the smartphone era to the Marianas with the Palm Treo in 2006. In just seven years, the once cutting-edge Treo has become a distant memory as today's breed of smartphones offer more processing power than the laptops of 2006.

The latest combatants to enter the smartphone arena come jam-packed with futuristic features that technophiles have come to appreciate on the Sci-Fi channel.

Big news coming from IT&E

Samsung GALAXY S IV

Take the Samsung Galaxy S IV, for example. The latest member of the Galaxy family is equipped with many of the features that come standard with just about every phone of the day but the attention to detail by the manufacturer sets this phone apart from the pack.

Samsung brought us the technology of the future with touchless features like Air Gesture and Air View. With Air Gesture, the user need only wave their hand above the screen to take calls. With Air View, users can turn pages by tilting their heads while reading content.

The Galaxy S IV also comes equipped with a 13-megapixel autofocus camera that out-performs many stand-alone digital cameras on the market. The S IV also comes with a front-facing camera that allows the users to take photos from the front and rear of the phone at the same time!

Smartphones have evolved to include multiplayer gaming. The Galaxy S IV features Group Play that allows users to wirelessly connect up to eight phones gaming and file sharing.

HTC ONE

The trend for larger screen and sleeker bodies has continued to reshape the smartphone industry. The HTC One is a prime example of how much power and performance designers can pack into a slim phone with a huge touchscreen.

A sculpted aluminum body frames this handheld communications juggernaut that fits perfectly into the waiting palm of the most pessimistic technophobe. The HTC One brings users a perfect mix of entertainment and communication with booming dual frontal stereo speakers, a live home screen that streams customized content, and a photo gallery that comes to life.

The photos appear more vivid in even the darkest of conditions because the HTC One's camera captures 300 percent more light. The state of the art camera also allows users to snap perfect images with one-press continuous shooting and VideoPic.

Samsung GALAXY Mega

Samsung's latest smartphone is also the largest! Packing a 6.3" touchscreen, the Samsung Mega delivers a mobile experience that is larger than life. Whether watching movies, browsing the web, playing games, everything will now appear larger and clearer.

Zooming in and zooming out is history! The Mega's mega-sized screen allows users to shop online, read e-books and play games with ease. The ideal viewing medium for photos and videos, the Mega remains optimally sized for portability as

well as taking phone calls.

With smart functions and services, the Mega comes in handy at any occasion. Traveling to a new place? Want to receive geographic information or restaurant recommendations or sites to see? You can now rely on Mega. It also features various camera modes for fun picture tak-

ing. Smart solutions for your mobile life!

The Samsung Mega keeps you interacted, with your friends, interest groups and more so that you stay connected in today's super connected world. Whether sharing content with friends over Wi-Fi, instant messaging or ChatON, your mobile reach will now become wider and more powerful than ever!

While dazzling images and apps lure people to the world of Android smartphones and touchscreens, many will not break their loyalty to QWERTY keyboards and the legendary BlackBerry OS.

BlackBerry

IT&E has a full range of BlackBerry smartphones, and the latest combines the keyboard and trackpad with a fully functional touchscreen.

The BlackBerry Bold Touch 9930 allows users to create and connect like never before with swiping, pinching, and zooming on the Liquid Graphics™ touch screen.

The BlackBerry brand has become synonymous with speed and efficiency and the premium BlackBerry Bold 9930 smartphone features one of the fastest and most powerful engines ever in a BlackBerry smartphone with faster loading, faster scrolling, faster zooming.

The Bold Touch can handle the most demanding tasks of most multitasker. Whatever you're busy doing, all of your messages, updates and notifications keep coming through. Easily bounce from one thing to another—all at once. Move from home to the coffee shop to the airport and to the office without missing a beat with IT&E's 3G network or while connecting to Wi-Fi® hotspots wherever they're available.

The BlackBerry Bold Touch 9930 will soon be joined by the BlackBerry Q10. The Q10 will offer the best of both worlds as Research In Motion packaged a traditional QWERTY keyboard design to satisfy BlackBerry buffs and added an even larger touchscreen.

The BlackBerry continues to evolve without departing from its roots, but the past seven years has demonstrated that change is on the way for every make and model of phone in today's marketplace.

3G Network

Handsets and smartphones aren't the only items that become outmoded quickly. IT&E changed the CNMI and Guam forever when it launched the first 3G network in 2008.

Five years later, IT&E is still the only wireless communications provider in the CNMI that offers high-speed mobile broadband to subscribers on

Saipan, Tinian and Rota. While others are able to sell modern phones, they lack the speed and power of IT&E's 3G network to stream real-time video through sites like YouTube and Netflix.

Network strength has always been a hot topic in the telecommunications industry but the focus had previously centered around dependability and voice quality. Both are still necessities among today's customers but the new generation of subscribers demand fast data speed to keep abreast of what's happening at home, at work, and around the world.

Without a 3G network, the latest and greatest smartphones on the market are nothing more than overpriced paperweights.

Unimax MiFi

The same technology that powers IT&E smart-

phones also brings subscribers unmatched mobile broadband in the CNMI. Only IT&E bring the speed and dependability of EV-DO to the masses with portable personal hotspots with MiFi devices.

In the last year, the use of MiFi devices has exploded. IT&E marketing manager Hans Mickelson likened the popularity of MiFi in the Marianas as, "hotter than popcorn at the circus" because of the ability to have up to five mobile devices connected to the Internet with one MiFi.

While Mother Nature doesn't always agree with technology, IT&E subscribers can now take their wireless Internet access wherever they go, regardless of the weather, with the Unimax Rugged MiFi MXE-650.

Powered by IT&E's 3G network, the MXE-650 is a go-anywhere mobile hotspot that's built for the Marianas. Users can stay connected for up to five hours on a single charge with this waterproof, drop-proof MiFi and access the Internet with speeds faster than any other local wireless carrier can offer.

MiFi units have practical applications for a wide range of customer needs, but some of IT&E's latest products focus on providing business customers with the tools they need to succeed in today's world of power-lunches and multitasking.

Business Solutions

While nothing beats the intimacy of face-to-face interactions, critical business still happens over the phone. IT&E provides the services you need to integrate the many parts of your business with the ESI C-Plus Business Communications Systems.

The ESI C-Plus Business Communications System offers built in features you need like voicemail, programmed greetings, and dedicated easy buttons for voicemail (lighted indicator), help (with verbal users guide), record (record active calls), and ESI-Dex (save important numbers).

The ESI C-Plus Executive Base System package includes 4 x 24-Key Digital Feature Phones, battery back-up, 5-Year Extended Warranty on

ESI Equipment, basic installation & programming, and basic maintenance.

The package is available for as low as \$135 per month without any upfront costs as part of IT&E's 36-month lease-to-own option. Subscribers will receive an extra 5-percent discount on their monthly charge if they bring in this article at the start of their contract.



IT'S TIME TO LIVE LARGE

POWERED BY RELIABLE AND SUPERIOR 3G NETWORK COVERAGE



HTC ONE

HTC ONE

With a sleek aluminum body, a live home screen that streams all of your favorite content, a photo gallery that comes to life, and dual frontal stereo speakers, the new HTC One is ready to reshape your smartphone experience.

KEY FEATURES

Your home screen. Your world.

With HTC Blink Feed™ on your phone, you're never out of touch with your world. All your favorite content is streamed onto one screen. If it's happening now, you'll find it on your home screen.

Awesome camera. Awesome imaging tools.

Get perfect images with one-press continuous shooting, VideoPic, and a camera that captures 300% more light.

Slim phone. Fat sound.

Dual frontal stereo speakers are teamed with powerful amplifiers, so everyone can hear what you're hearing. Share music, share videos, share games—and share them loudly.



SAMSUNG GALAXY MEGA

Samsung Galaxy MEGA

Mega View

Zooming in and zooming out is history! Feast your eyes on this mobile's mega-sized screen and shop online, read e-books and play games with ease. The ideal viewing medium for photos and videos, the mobile remains optimally sized for portability as well as taking phone calls. See more of your mobile world with Samsung's GALAXY Mega!

Mega Convenience

With smart functions and services, this mobile comes in handy at any occasion. Traveling to a new place? Want to receive geographic information or restaurant recommendations or sites to see? You can now rely on Mega. It also features various camera modes for fun picture taking. Smart solutions for your mobile life!

Mega Smartness & Fun

Stay connected in today's super connected world. Samsung's GALAXY Mega keeps you interacted, with your friends, interest groups and more, easily. Whether sharing content with friends over Wi-Fi, instant messaging or ChatON, your mobile reach will now become wider and more powerful than ever!



SAMSUNG GALAXY S IV

Samsung Galaxy S4

Shoot Like a Pro

Capture moments with the 13MP autofocus camera. Take simultaneous front and back photos with Dual Camera, edit them right on your phone with Eraser Shot and relive the memories in brilliant clarity with Story Album.

Touch Free

Experience a whole new way to interact with your smartphone. Wave your hand at the screen to accept calls with Air Gesture, read content by tilting your head or phone with Smart Scroll and preview content by barely touching the screen with Air View.

Group Play

It's easy to connect, work or play with the Galaxy S4. With Group Play, you can connect up to 8 phones wirelessly to play games and share your favorite tunes, photos, and documents - no Wi-Fi necessary.

Hardware Excellence

View all your content on a stunning 5-inch Full HD Super AMOLED™ display that's powered by a robust 1.9GHz quad-core processor - all in a light 0.29LB smartphone.



UMX-650 RUGGED UNIMAX

Take your wireless Internet access wherever you go in any conditions with the Unimax Rugged Mifi MXE-650

Powered by IT&E's 3G network, the MXE-650 is a go-anywhere mobile hotspot that's built for the Marianas. Stay connected for up to five hours on a single charge with this waterproof, drop-proof MiFi and access the Internet with speeds faster than any other local wireless carrier can offer.



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By MARK DAVIS
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Digital wallet apps unfold as phone users, businesses catch on

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mark Logan ordered lunch at Mildred's Coffeehouse & Bistro in Kansas City's Crossroads Arts District and stepped to the register to pay.

No cash. No check. No plastic.

Logan paid with his smartphone. He had previously loaded it with his debit card information, using a mobile application called Square Wallet, and snapped his own picture.

To make the payment, Square Wallet sent Logan's picture to the iPad that Mildred's uses for a register. The iPad tied his tab to his photo.

The barista, seeing Logan, tapped his photo from among several customers on the screen and told Logan the payment was going through. A second tap — technology took care of the rest.

"This is dead easy," said Logan, whose receipt popped up on his phone.

So why don't more of us pay with

LATER ADOPTERS

Tech-savvy Americans are pikers in the world of mobile money.

Only 1 in 5 smartphone users here have digital wallets on their phones, according to Datamonitor. Its survey found digital wallets on more than twice as many of the smartphones in South Korea.

Kenians are tops in mobile money. Roughly two-thirds of the eastern African nation's adults use its M-PESA system to pay with their phones, according to The Economist.

Why Kenya?

It had an expensive, inefficient and limited banking system, for one. The dominant wireless company set up M-PESA, and use spread. Kenians pay bills, do business with one another and send money to families in rural areas through M-PESA, The Economist reported.

Contrast that with America's smooth-working credit and debit card payments system and the hodgepodge of players pushing their own versions of digital wallets here.

our phones?

Mostly, we don't know we can. A recent survey of smartphone users found that half had never heard of the idea of a digital wallet, let alone downloaded and used one.

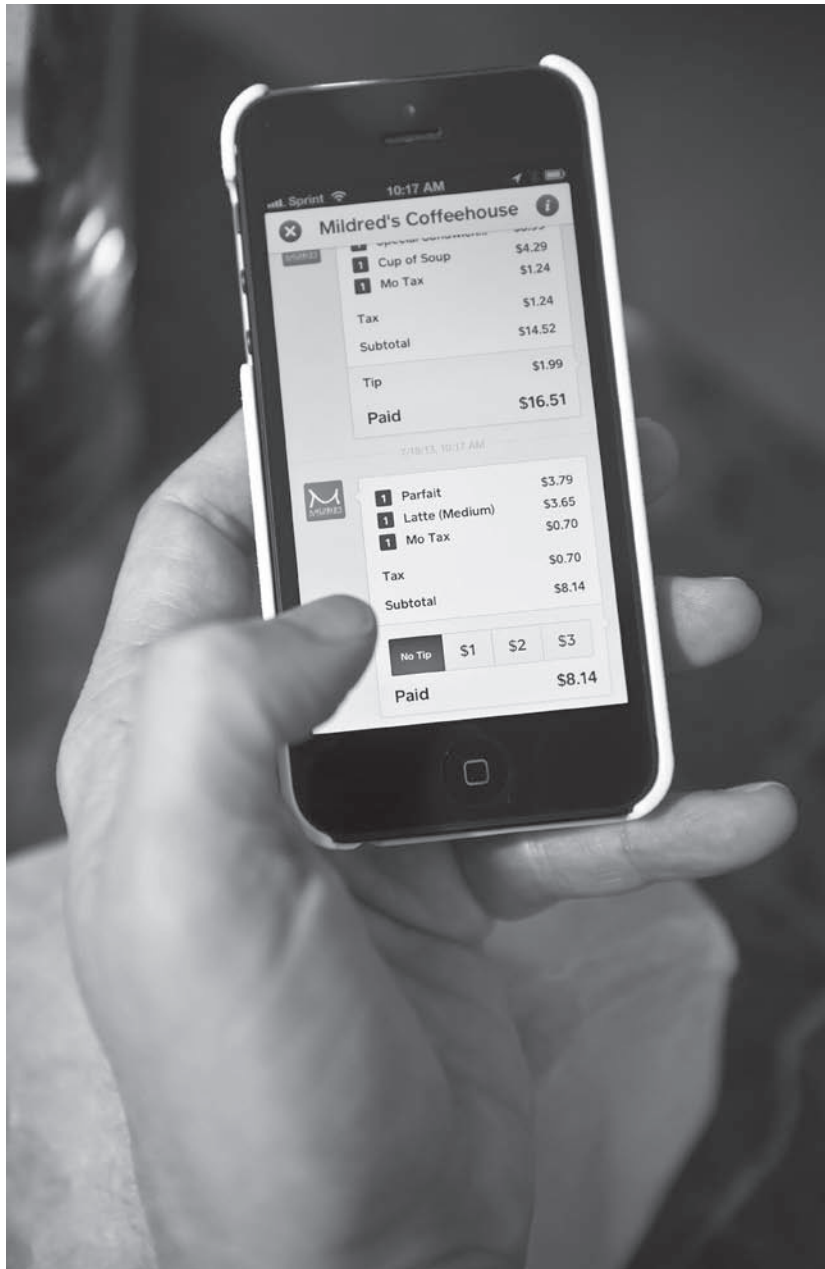
And few stores or restaurants take them.

All the same, you may be using one soon. Money is making a dash from pockets to smartphones thanks to digital wallets like Lemon, Isis, LevelUp and others.

The Carlisle & Gallagher Consulting Group forecasts that within five years, half of smartphone owners will prefer to pay for their gas, food, gadgets and other consumer goods with phones and mobile wallets.

That's a big leap, and a lot needs to happen for that to prove true.

Several technologies are competing to migrate money to smartphones and they don't mesh. By one count, perhaps 280 digital wallets or more have sprung up or are in development around those various technologies. Some retailers, notably Starbucks, have built their own apps



Mark Logan shows the instant receipt for the purchase of his midmorning coffee, July 18, 2013. The wireless connection on Mildred's iPad cash register recognized Logan's iPhone the moment he walked into the cafe.

MOVING TOWARD MOBILE MONEY

■ 1913: The Federal Reserve System was created to regulate the flow of money and to issue Federal Reserve Notes.

■ 1946: The first bank-issued credit card.

■ 1959: The first ATM was installed in a shopping center in suburban Columbus, Ohio.

■ 1966: The modern general purpose credit card was born — the BankAmericard.

■ Early 1980s: Home online banking services were introduced.

for mobile payments.

It leaves consumers and retailers both guessing which digital wallet the other will be using. Unless they match, it will be back to cash, check or plastic.

Security concerns pose another hurdle: Shoppers instinctively don't trust their money to what they don't know.

We are comfortable with credit

cards and debit cards. They're reliable and accepted almost everywhere. Mobile payments have caught on faster in some countries with poor

PHONE BILLS GO UNIVERSAL:

Money has gone mobile not only on phones but also on phone bills.

Many of us texted \$10 donations in the aftermath of Moore, Okla.'s tornado or similar events and made good when our wireless bills came due.

Several companies — sporting names like Boku, Fortumo and payvia — handle mobile payments without hitting your credit or debit cards. The charge lands on your next wireless phone bill.

These direct carrier billing options often pop up, for example, when buying online games and ask you to text from your phone for confirmation.

payment systems.

But consumers in Japan also pay with their cellphones more than Americans do, said Ray Ledford, who lives in Japan but spends half his time in the United States on work.

"Anytime you're there you'll see somebody using it during the day," Ledford said during a recent visit to Kansas City. "I don't see that here."

If the digital wallet is really going to catch on here, it has to do more than pay the tab. Advocates say successful digital wallets will need to help consumers save money, become savvier managers of their payment choices, earn discounts and coupons and increase their value as customers.

Besides helping him buy coffee, Logan would like his phone to hold not only his money but also his driver's license, proof of car insurance, and the other items normally stuffed inside billfolds.

"I'd love to stop carrying around a physical wallet," he said.

Google Wallet relies on something

called near field communication technology, or NFC. It's embedded on a computer chip in some smartphones.

As the name suggests, near field communication sends the payment information only a short distance to the register's reader. The customer then gets a receipt, through email if he chooses.

Microchip payments are routine in Europe, where credit cards rely on embedded chips instead of the magnetic strips found on American credit cards.

Chips are coming here. They're more secure, said Carl Bradbury, Commerce Bank's director of consumer card products. He said Commerce is moving to them.

"They can't be counterfeited."

The added security means companies that sell register equipment to stores are including NFC technology, anticipating widespread use of those chips.

NFC technology does face one big roadblock: Smartphones are everywhere, but few come with NFC chips. No iPhone does; Apple Inc. hasn't put an NFC chip into any of its phones so far.

But Apple's not a problem for the Square Wallet, because it uses a different technology.

It relies on GPS positioning and "geofencing" technology to find the Square Wallets of customers who come in, or happen to be nearby the store's Square-powered register. The payment changes hands through the Internet — on the cloud, as they say — rather than through direct communication between the register and phone.

Another technology compacts the customer's credit or debit card payment information into a bar code specific to that transaction. The code pops up on the customer's phone and the clerk scans it to complete the payment.

DIGITAL WALLETS:

- Lemon Wallet
- LevelUp
- Isis
- Apple Passbook
- Google Wallet
- Mastercard MasterPass
- MCX Merchant Customer Exchange
- PayPal
- Square Wallet
- Visa V.me



Mark Logan pays for his morning coffee at Mildred's in Kansas City, Missouri, July 18, 2013, with Square Wallet, a wireless connection with the coffee-house's tablet, which is used as a cash register.

KANSAS CITY
STAR/MCT

Business



Tom and Anne Barker have traveled extensively during their retirement years.

Dreams are just a plan away

By **RODNEY BROOKS**
USA TODAY

Tom and Anne Barker had a retirement dream: to travel the world. And to say they have lived that dream would be an understatement. They have been on more than a dozen international trips since they retired in 2005, including Iceland, New Zealand, Morocco, India, Zambia, Tuscany, Argentina and Vietnam. And they aren't done yet.

Van McKellar, 74, of Aurora, Co., had a very different dream. He quit school in the 10th grade. Then there was marriage and supporting his family with hard jobs that never left him enough time to go back for that diploma, or that sometimes paid so little he had to have two jobs. Last year he graduated from the Metropolitan State College of Denver cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in African-American studies and a minor in history.

"It felt good," he says. "But it was more than saying it felt good. I felt something very important had transpired. I had reached a milestone that was more important than other things I achieved in my life."

Then there's Jerry Leener, of Chevy Chase, Md. After 30 years at the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, he wanted to do something different, and he wanted to give something back to the community. So, at 65 he is a volunteer Montgomery County (Md.) EMS technician and ambulance driver, working with men and women half his age.

"You have to like this kind of crap," he says. "Blood and guts is not for everybody."

Despite surveys showing that many of us have not saved enough money to live comfortably in retirement, there are the many who have done things right, and are living out their

dreams. The key, financial planners say, is to have a plan to pay for that dream.

"Today we have Boomers crossing that bridge, and they have different ideas of what retirement looks like," says Jennifer Landon, president of Journey Financial Services in Idaho Falls, Idaho. "We're seeing a lot of people who are doing a lot of different things, and they have different (financial) planning needs."

Leener is a great example. After 30 years at the giant accounting firm, he needed something else. "I got to the point where I really wanted to retire," he said. "I thought there was something more in life."

He didn't know exactly how he wanted to give back. He sought professional help, and his retirement goals went up on a white board: giving back, being outdoors, not wearing a coat and tie, freedom of time, and developing a new community of people.

Still, he wasn't sure until one day a battalion chief from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue ended up doing some work in his neighborhood. The two started talking, and the chief suggested he join the fire department as a volunteer.

That was eight years ago. The training was so grueling he actually quit — twice. But he persevered, and now besides being the only volunteer EMS technician among a group of paid professionals, he's also been trained to drive an ambulance. He's proud of the fact that he doesn't need the help of his much younger colleagues to do the very physical work.

And he's going to do it "as long as I can bench press 190 pounds."

McKellar, meanwhile, paid his tuition with scholarships and grants, and paid his living expenses with his Social Security. "I did not use student

loans or have any Veterans assistance," he says. "In essence, I was like a very studious person that only took room and board from his parents."

And what did his four daughters think? "They were more proud than I thought they would be," he says. "It was a big deal to them."

Jeffrey Bastable, a retired hospital and health care executive, found a use for his skills when his wife, Susan, a professor at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., was planning to take a dozen of her nursing students to a remote village in Ghana to do hands-on health care. This was not her first foreign trip, but this was the first time he went along to help. The group worked at a 100-bed hospital that served a population of 800,000. Bastable used his experience to help with funding and equipment donations.

"People say you are retired, but I say I am retooling," says Bastable, 66. "I say I no longer work for organizations, I work for myself. I've never felt comfortable with the term retirement when you went home and kicked your feet up. That did not work for me."

"Isn't it wonderful that with the experience we have we can apply to other settings that desperately need it," he says. "There is no pay. The pay is the faces of the people. The value that can accrue to yourself personally by extending yourself in unfamiliar settings can be extraordinary."

Tom and Anne Barker, of Webster, N.Y., are both retired from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where they were both statistics professors. They have done most of their travels through Classic Journeys, which offers vacation packages and tours worldwide, including walking, hiking and adventure tours.

Nation

FBI raids rescue 105 young people

WASHINGTON (AP)—Declaring child prostitution a "persistent threat" in America, the FBI said Monday that authorities had rescued 105 young people and arrested 150 alleged pimps in a three-day sweep in 76 cities.

The agency said it had been monitoring Backpage.com and other websites as a prominent online marketplace for sex for sale. Backpage.com said that it was "very, very pleased" by the raids and that if the website were shut down to the advertisements, the ads would be pushed to sites that wouldn't cooperate with law enforcement.

The young people in the roundup, almost all of them girls, ranged in age from 13 to 17.

The largest numbers of children rescued in the weekend initiative, Operation Cross Country, were in the San Francisco Bay and Detroit areas, along with Milwaukee, Denver and New Orleans. The operation was conducted under the FBI's decade-long Innocence Lost National Initiative. The latest rescues and arrests were the largest such enforcement action to date.

"Child prostitution remains

a persistent threat to children across the country," Ron Hosko, assistant director of the bureau's criminal investigative division, told a news conference. "We're trying to put this spotlight on pimps and those who would exploit."

In Operation Cross Country, federal, state and local authorities cooperated in an intelligence effort aimed at identifying pimps and their young victims.

The FBI said the campaign has resulted in rescuing 2,700 children since 2003. The investigations and convictions of 1,350 individuals have led to life imprisonment for 10 pimps and the seizure of more than \$3.1 million in assets.

In their efforts to identify child victims, investigators seek help wherever they can find it—in some cases from adult prostitutes, Hosko said. He said almost all the victims in sweeps like the one over the weekend are girls and that the profiles of the victims cut across racial

lines and boundaries of wealth.

Social media are a common denominator in many of the rescues.

Last year, five members of the Underground Gangster Crips contacted teens at school or through Facebook, DateHookUp.com or other online social networking sites, enticing the girls to use their looks to earn money through prostitution.

As for websites, Liz McDougall, the general counsel for Backpage.com, said that if that site were shut down to the advertisements in question, the information that can lead to the rescues would be lost to law enforcement because the ads would be pushed to "offshore uncooperative websites."

"We feel very strongly that we're doing the right thing, and we're going to continue to do the right thing and we congratulate the FBI and everybody with the task forces involved in the program," said McDougall.



Hosko

Familiar cast as US launches new Mideast peace bid

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a cast of characters that has presided over numerous failed Middle East peace efforts, the Obama administration launched a fresh bid Monday to pull Israel and the Palestinians into substantive negotiations.

Despite words of encouragement, deep skepticism about the prospects for success surrounded the initial discussions, which were opening with a dinner hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry. He named a former U.S. ambassador to Israel to shepherd what all sides believe will be a protracted and difficult process.

Former envoy Martin Indyk, who played key roles in the Clinton administration's

multiple, unsuccessful pushes to broker peace deals between Israel and Syria and Israel and the Palestinians, will assume the day-to-day responsibility for keeping the talks alive for the next nine months.

Kerry called Indyk a "seasoned diplomat" and said he "knows what has worked and he knows what hasn't worked." Neither Kerry nor the State Department would say what has worked in the past, although the fact that there is no peace deal now would seem to indicate that nothing has worked in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian standoff.

President Barack Obama echoed Kerry's hopeful sentiment in a White House statement that said Indyk "brings

unique experience and insight to this role, which will allow him to contribute immediately as the parties begin down the tough, but necessary, path of negotiations."

The Israeli side will be led by chief negotiator Tzipi Livni, a former foreign minister who was active in the Bush's administration's ill-fated Annapolis peace talks with the Palestinians, and Yitzhak Molcho, a veteran adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who was part of the Israeli team involved in Obama's two previous attempts to broker negotiations. Those two efforts relied heavily on Dennis Ross, a former Indyk colleague and Mideast peace envoy, and veteran negotiator George Mitchell.

ACROSS THE NATION

Weiner falls to 4th in new NYC mayoral poll

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City mayoral hopeful Anthony Weiner plunged to fourth place among Democrats in the first poll taken since he admitted to having illicit online exchanges with women even after he resigned from Congress amid a sexting scandal. The poll—which Weiner led just five days ago—also showed about half of likely Democratic voters saying Weiner should abandon his mayoral bid. Weiner's support fell from 26 percent last week to 16 percent in Monday's Quinnipiac University poll. Last week's survey was taken largely before Weiner's latest scandal was revealed. "He's in a free-fall," said poll director Maurice Carroll. "He can't win. He simply can't win."

No fatalities after Florida gas plant blast

TAVARES, Florida (AP)—All workers at a Florida gas plant rocked by a series of explosions have been accounted for after as many as 15 were initially feared killed, authorities say. John Herrell of the Lake County Sheriff's Office said early

Tuesday that all the workers at the Blue Rhino propane plant had been accounted for and that no fatalities had been reported after explosions hit the plant late Monday night. Seven people were injured and transported to local hospitals. Herrell earlier had said 15 workers were unaccounted for after the blasts, but all were later found safe.

Airline worker charged with stealing luggage after Asiana crash

SAN FRANCISCO—A United Airlines customer service agent and his wife have been charged with one felony count of grand theft and two felony counts of commercial burglary for allegedly stealing luggage at San Francisco International Airport in the disarray following the crash of Asiana Airlines Flight 214, prosecutors said Monday. Sean Sharif Crudup, 44, and Raychas Elizabeth Thomas, 32, both of Richmond, Calif., are out on bail. Crudup has pleaded not guilty to the charges. Thomas is scheduled to be arraigned Aug. 26 and has yet to file a plea. If convicted, each could receive a maximum sentence of four years and four months in state prison.

Asia



The Faridkot estate is seen in New Delhi, India, Monday, July 29, 2013.

Princesses in north India win royal fortune

NEW DELHI (AP)—It has all the makings of a best-selling novel. An Indian maharaja crowned as a toddler and rich beyond imagination falls into a deep depression in old age after losing his only son.

After his own death a few months later, his daughters, the princesses, don't get the palaces, gold and vast lands they claim as their birthright. Instead, they are given a few dollars a month from palace officials they accuse of scheming to usurp the royal billions with a forged will. The fight rages for decades.

On Saturday, an Indian court brought the chapter to a close, ruling that the will of Maharaja Harinder Singh Brar of Faridkot was fabricated.

His daughters will now inherit the estimated \$4 billion estate, instead of a trust run by his former servants and palace officials.

Chief judicial magistrate Rajnish Kumar Sharma, in the northern city of Chandigarh, finally gave his ruling on the case filed by the maharaja's eldest daughter, Amrit Kaur, in 1992, a court official said Monday. The court official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The Faridkot riches were legend in India's Punjab state.

The estate includes a 350-year-old fort, palaces and forests lands in Faridkot, a mansion surrounded by acres of land in the heart of India's capital New Delhi and similar properties spread across four states. The

18 cars include a Rolls Royce, a Daimler and a Bentley, all in running condition.

In addition, there is an aerodrome in Faridkot, spread over 200 acres, which is being used by the Punjab state administration and the army.

And more than 10 billion rupees (\$170 million) worth of gold, jewelry studded with diamonds, rubies and emeralds.

Brar himself was a boy-king who grew up amid the final gasps of India's royal families. He was crowned maharaja of the tiny kingdom of Faridkot in western Punjab—the last maharaja it would turn out—at the age of 3, upon his father's death.

After India won independence from Britain in 1947, Faridkot and hundreds of other small kingdoms were absorbed into the country, royal titles and power were abolished and the royal families were given a fixed salary from the Indian government. That payment, the "privy purse," was abolished in 1971.

Some royals slipped into penury, some converted their former palaces into luxury hotels to provide them an income.

A few, like Brar, held onto their enormously profitable real estate and continued to live a rarefied life.

But in 1981, Brar's only son, Tikka Harmohinder Singh, was killed in a road accident and he tumbled into a deep depression. It was then, his three daughters' argued, that his trusted aides connived to deprive his family of their fortune. They set up the Meharawal Khewaji Trust, nam-

ing all the maharaja's servants, officials and lawyers as trustees.

A short time after Brar's death in 1989, a will leaving all his wealth to the trust became public. The two younger princesses, Deepinder Kaur and Maheepinder Kaur, were given monthly salaries of \$20 and \$18 respectively. Brar's wife, mother and oldest daughter—the presumed heir—were cut off without a penny.

The trust told the court that Amrit Kaur had been shunned by her father for marrying against his wishes.

Kaur told the court that her father had never made a will and that she had remained with him until his death.

In the two decades that it has taken for the court to give its ruling, much has changed. The value of the estates has increased manifold. The New Delhi properties alone are worth about \$350 million. One of his daughters, Maheepinder Kaur, died. Amrit and Deepinder are in their 80s.

The family's lawyer, Vikas Jain, told India's Financial Express newspaper that some of the fortune had been squandered.

The trust is weighing a challenge to the Chandigarh court order in a higher court, news reports said Monday.

"The will was real and it was not forged. The trust, after going through the order in detail, could challenge it in an upper court," Ranjit Singh, a lawyer for the trust, was quoted as telling The Times of India newspaper.

Shahid claimed responsibility for the attack, saying 150 militants took part and around 300 prisoners were freed.

Oil washing onto Thai resort beach

BANGKOK (AP)—Streaks of crude oil marred the beach on a popular tourist island in Thailand's eastern sea despite attempts to clean up a spill from a leaking pipeline, officials said. Tourists

were warned to stay away as black waves left inky globs on Samet Island's once-serene white beaches Monday while hundreds of workers in white jumpsuits labored to scrape the sand clean and remove oil from the water. Oily streaks about 300 meters (1,000 feet) wide marred the shore of Prao Bay on the island that is one of the most popular beach destinations for Thai and foreign tourists in the Gulf of Thailand.

World

'Who am I to judge gay priests?'

ABOARD THE PAPAL AIRCRAFT (AP)—A remarkably candid Pope Francis struck a conciliatory stance toward gays Monday, saying "who am I to judge" when it comes to the sexual orientation of priests.

"We shouldn't marginalize people for this. They must be integrated into society," Francis said during an extraordinary 82-minute exchange with reporters aboard his plane returning from his first papal trip, to celebrate World Youth Day in Brazil.

"If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?" the pope asked.

Francis' first news conference as pope was wide-ranging and open, touching on everything from the greater role he believes women should have in the Catholic Church to the troubled Vatican Bank.

While his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, responded to only a few pre-selected questions during his papal trips, Francis did not dodge a single query, even thanking the journalist who asked about reports of a "gay lobby" inside the Vatican and allegations that one of his trusted Monsignors was involved in a gay tryst.

Francis said he investigated the allegations against the clergyman according to canon

law and found nothing to back them up. He took journalists to task for reporting on the matter, saying it concerned issues of sin, not crimes like sexually abusing children. And when someone sins and confesses, he said, God not only forgives—he forgets.

"We don't have the right to not forget," he said.

While the comments did not signal a change in Catholic teaching that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered," they indicated a shift in tone under Francis' young papacy and an emphasis on a church that is more inclusive and merciful rather than critical and disciplinary.

Francis' stance contrasted markedly with that of Benedict, who signed a document in 2005 that said men who had deep-rooted homosexual tendencies should not be priests.

Gay leaders were buoyed by Francis' approach, saying the change in tone was progress in itself, although for some the encouragement was tempered by Francis' talk of gay clergy's "sins."

"Basically, I'm overjoyed at the news," said Francis DeBernardo, executive director of the U.S.-based New Ways

Ministry, a group that promotes justice and reconciliation for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and the wider church community.

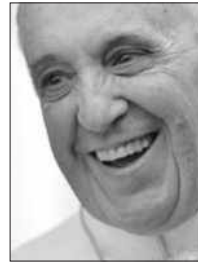
"For decades now, we've had nothing but negative comments about gay and lesbian people coming from the Vatican," DeBernardo said in a telephone interview from Maryland.

The largest U.S. gay rights group, Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement that the pope's remarks "represent a significant change in tone."

Still, said Chad Griffin, the HRC president, as long as gays "are told in churches big and small that their lives and their families are disordered and sinful because of how they were born—how God made them—then the church is sending a deeply harmful message."

In Italy, the country's first openly gay governor, Nichi Vendola, urged fellow politicians to learn a lesson from the pope.

"I believe that if politics had one-millionth of the capacity to ... listen that the pope does, it would be better able to help people who suffer," he said.



Pope Francis

Official: Cannes diamond heist actually nets \$136M

PARIS (AP)—Wearing a scarf to mask his face, the gunman sneaked into the posh Cannes hotel and held up a diamond show as three security guards looked on, then fled on foot about a minute later. In the end, he made off with a breath-taking \$136 million worth of valuables—the biggest jewelry heist in years, maybe ever.

It was a French Riviera robbery that might make Hollywood scriptwriters smile. And it even happened at a hotel that was featured in Alfred Hitchcock's jewel-encrusted thriller "To Catch a Thief."

On Monday, a state prosecutor provided new details about

the brazen heist a day earlier at the Carlton Intercontinental hotel—not least that the loot was actually worth more than twice the (EURO)40 million (\$53 million) estimate that police had first announced.

The noontime caper Sunday along the town's seaside promenade, La Croisette—a playground for the rich and famous, sunbathing tourists, and most notably, world cinema stars every year—looked set to dwarf the value of two other jewelry thefts in the Riviera during the Cannes Film Festival in May.

It also could eclipse two other massive heists over the last decade. In 2008, thieves—some

dressed as women—stole \$118 million in rings, necklaces and luxury watches from the Harry Winston store in Paris. A robbery five years earlier at Belgium's Antwerp Diamond Center netted an estimated \$100 million.

Philippe Vique, assistant prosecutor in the nearby town of Grasse, said the show's Dubai-based organizer—whom he would not identify—had carried out a more complete inventory of the jewelry by Monday, and came up with the \$136 million figure.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Vique described a canny, quick and logistically simple break-in.

Scientists find mystery coffin at Richard III site

LONDON (AP)—A team of archaeologists said Monday it has unearthed an unusual coffin-within-a-coffin in the central England parking lot where it found the skeleton of King Richard III, and that they hope to identify the remains within.

University of Leicester scientists have been digging at the Grey Friars site in Leicester after finding the body of Richard there in September. He died nearby in 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth Field.

The team said it had dis-

covered a fully intact medieval stone coffin during a dig in September but wasn't able to investigate it further at the time. When it was opened this week, the team said, it found a lead coffin within it, one likely to contain a "high status" individual.

Scientists think the lead coffin—which has a hole through which the deceased's feet can be seen—could contain one of the friary's founders, a medieval monk, or the remains of a 14th-century medieval

knight, Sir William Moton.

The archaeologists say that tests must be carried out to determine how to open the lead coffin without damaging the remains.

The University of Leicester's Matthew Morris said no one on the team had ever seen a lead coffin within a stone coffin before.

"It was as exciting as finding Richard III," he said in a statement. "We still don't know who is inside—so there is still a question mark over it."

ASIA BRIEFS

Militants attack prison in northwest Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Taliban militants disguised as police and armed with guns, rocket-propelled grenades and explosives attacked a prison in northwest Pakistan holding 40 "high profile" inmates Monday night in an apparent attempt to free their colleagues, officials said. Pakistani Taliban spokesman Shahidullah

Campus Life

UOG students get hands dirty for agriculture internship

Five incoming University of Guam freshmen participated in the Caribbean and Pacific Consortium agricultural internship at UOG this summer. The four-week program was designed to give students a taste of different specialties in agriculture including fieldwork and hands-on activities.

CariPac interns learn about Guam's agriculture challenges, methods and techniques, from observing diseased ironwood trees to setting up drip irrigation in the backyard, to aquaponics and more. The students conducted fieldwork at the University's agriculture facilities including Triton Farm and the Hatchery. "The one thing that stuck out the most to me was learning about aquaponics at Triton Farm," said Rachelle Rapanut, a graduate of Simon Sanchez High School. "There were large tubs filled with tilapia and the water from those tubs would run through 'raceways' that contained lettuce seedlings. That water would then be pumped back into the tilapia tubs."

According to Dr. Prem Singh, professor of agricultural engineering at UOG, the most common misconception about agriculture is that it only concerns farming. "Students don't realize that there are more than 30 specialized disciplines in agriculture in which they can get a Ph.D.," Singh said.

In an age of environmental awareness, agriculture students can anticipate a boom in career opportunities. Graduates of the agriculture program may enter careers in research, genetics, agricultural engineering, education and even finance. "Banks often need consultants to assist farmers who seek loans for new farming equipment," Singh said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UOG CariPac Interns receive their certificates of completion. From left to right: Christelyn Lopez, Rachelle Rapanut, Megan Taitague, Cencera Mantanona and Rebecca Rupley.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UOG CariPac Intern Rebecca Rupley holds up eggs harvested from chickens at UOG's Triton Farm in Yigo.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UOG CariPac intern Megan Taitague, tests the PH balance in a soil sample.

UOG students have the potential to grow into a new crop of leaders in the field of agriculture. "It's a challenge when high school students don't have the foggiest idea about what agriculture is all about," Singh said. "Enlightening students about

agriculture is the first step."

"I was planning to major in biology, but now I'm considering agriculture," said Megan Taitague, a graduate of Notre Dame High School. "This program opened my eyes to so many new things." (UoG)

WASHINGTON (AP)—College costs are driving decisions about which schools to attend, what to study and even where to live, according to a report from loan giant Sallie Mae.

Parents no longer foot the largest portion of the bill, according to the lender's annual survey. That role goes to grants and scholarships, with student loans coming in third.

While the recession has largely passed, economic worries have not and many families are making college choices driven by fears of tuition hikes and job losses, according to the survey.

"Parents are willing to stretch themselves," said Sarah Ducich, Sallie Mae's senior vice president for public policy. "It's not that they're not willing to pay. It's that their income is not keeping up."

College spending per student was about \$21,000 during 2012, down from a peak of \$24,000

Report: Economic concerns drive college choices

in 2010, according to the Sallie Mae-Ipsos Public Affairs report.

The annual survey of student financial aid found students earned about \$6,300 in grants and scholarships to pay for college costs in 2012, taking the top spots from parents. Parents chipped in \$5,727 on average, a decrease of 35 percent since 2010. Student loans were the third most common source to pick up the bill for courses, housing and books. The average student borrowed \$8,815 in federal loans.

The rate for those loans was the subject of debate in the Senate last week, as lawmakers considered a compromise that would offer some students lower rates for the next few years but would prescribe higher rates for future classes. The Senate is expected to vote on that White House-backed compromise this week.

"Rates on every single new college loan will come down this school year, offering relief to nearly 11 million borrowers," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said Tuesday.

The White House estimates the average undergraduate student would save \$1,500 in interest charges if Congress acts before leaving town for the August recess. A vote has not been scheduled.

Last year, the average family turned to grants and scholarships to cover 30 percent of college costs. Parents' income and savings covered 27 percent of the bill and student borrowing covered 18 percent.

"We have moved into a post-recession reality in how people pay for college," Ducich said.

Parents' enthusiasm for college has not shriveled, though.

The survey found 85 percent of parents saw college bills as an investment in their children's future.

"We're in a new normal where big ticket items like college, families will pay for them but won't stress about them too much," said Cliff Young, managing director at Ipsos.

One-fifth of parents added work hours to pay for college and half of students increased their work hours, too. The report found 57 percent of families said students were living at home or with relatives, up from 41 percent last year and 44 percent in 2011.

Among other strategies employed to deal with costs:

■ One-fifth of students from low-income families chose to transfer to less expensive schools.

■ About one-fifth of students said they changed majors to fields that were expected to be more marketable upon graduation.

■ In all, 67 percent of students and their families eliminated colleges at some stage during the application process because of costs, up from 58 percent in 2008.

"It forced them to adopt new behaviors of savings and ways to find nickels and dimes," Young said.

The tuition sticker price at public four-year colleges is up 27 percent beyond overall inflation over the last five years, according to the latest figures from a separate study from the College Board. This past year it rose nearly 5 percent to an average of \$8,655 nationwide. Including room and board, the average

sticker price at public colleges is now \$17,860, and students pay on average \$12,110. At private four-year colleges, the average full tuition price is now just under \$40,000, with the average student paying \$23,840.

What does that mean for the average college student?

About two-thirds of the national college class of 2011 had loan debt at graduation, and their debt averaged \$26,600, according to the most recent figures from the California-based Institute for College Access and Success. That was an increase of about 5 percent from the class before them.

The Ipsos telephone poll was conducted between April 10 and May 9 with 802 parents of undergraduate students aged 18 to 24, and 800 18- to 24-year-old undergraduate students. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Life & Style

Macau aims for another Las Vegas staple: boxing

By KELVIN CHAN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

MACAU (AP)—A Chinese fighter's victory at a Macau showdown brings the world's top casino market a step closer to challenging Las Vegas for dominance of another Sin City staple: big-time boxing matches.

Macau, which long ago eclipsed Vegas as the world's top gambling city, is now looking to add to its allure by holding the kind of boxing bouts that Las Vegas is known for.

The tiny Chinese enclave is hosting a series of high-profile bouts this year featuring a pair of Asian stars: Chinese two-time Olympic gold medalist Zou Shiming and Philippine fighter Manny Pacquiao.

Zou made his professional debut in April, winning the "Fists of Gold" match at Macau's Venetian resort. He returned for a second installment of the series on Saturday night, defeating his Mexican opponent in a unanimous decision at the Cotai Arena.

Zou's rise has helped boost boxing's popularity among fans in China, where the sport was banned until the mid-1980s. Chinese fans, mostly subdued for the six preliminary "undercard" fights, rose to their feet for the main event, calling out "Jia you!"—Chinese for "Let's go!"—and stomping their feet as Zou fought a six-round flyweight match with Jesus Ortega.

Now all eyes are on the "Clash in Cotai" in November, featuring Pacquiao for the main event and Zou on the undercard.

Organizers say it'll be the biggest professional boxing match ever held in China. It'll also be the first outside of the U.S. since 2006 for the Filipino superstar, who has lost his two last bouts.

Boxing's emergence in Macau is another reminder of how the global gambling industry's center of gravity has shifted to the East thanks to rising incomes in China. The former Portuguese colony, now a semiautonomous region of China, overtook the Las Vegas Strip in 2006 as the world's most lucrative gambling market. Last year it raked in \$36 billion in gambling revenue, six times more than the Strip. But authorities want Macau to be known for more than gambling and see big events as a way to turn the city, which has a lingering reputation for seediness and corruption, into a broader tourist destination.

Zou's celebrated trainer, Los Angeles-based Freddie Roach, left no doubt about how the focus has changed in the boxing world.

"I think I've got a new home," he said at a press conference last week, referring to the Venetian, the flagship casino resort of billionaire Sheldon Adelson's Macau casino arm, Sands China Ltd. "Macau has become the



In this July 27, 2013 photo, China's Zou Shiming, right, fights against Mexico's Jesus Ortega during their Flyweight bout at the Cotai Arena in Venetian Macao in Macau.

capital of the boxing world."

For promoter Top Rank, it's a chance to get a head start on bringing the sport to the huge, untapped market in China. Boxing was banned under Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong for being too violent and too Western. It wasn't until 1986 that the ban was lifted.

The sport is nowhere near as popular in China as soccer or basketball, but Top Rank boss Bob Arum sees a vast potential market of new fans. Key to his plan is Zou, who became a celebrity in China after winning a gold medal in the Beijing Olympics and another at the London Olympics.

Zou "has energized people

who follow sports in China," said Arum. "The number of people who watched his last fight in China was quite remarkable, anywhere between 100 million to 200 million homes based on the surveys we've had done. That's outstanding. Most countries don't even have that many people."

Top Rank put on a Vegas-style production for the Macau fights, complete with spotlights, scantily-clad "ring girls" and announcer Michael Buffer, best known for his catchphrase, "Let's get ready to rumble!" Arum said production costs for a Macau show amount to \$500,000, about the same as for

bouts in Vegas.

Arum said he envisions Top Rank, which organizes 60 boxing shows a year, eventually holding four to six a year in Macau, putting it on par with Vegas, which this year is hosting about half a dozen.

For Arum, the big prize in bringing boxing to China is the potential for pay per view profits that would dwarf those in the U.S. Zou's fights were carried on state broadcaster CCTV. Arum had hoped to offer the Pacquiao fight on pay per view but he said lining up a deal with potential partners has been harder than expected. China's broadcasting industry is dominated by state-

run broadcasters while premium cable and satellite channels have little role to play.

One idea had been to offer the November fight for \$5 in China on smartphones. That's a fraction of the \$50-\$60 typically charged to see a live bout on cable in the U.S. but the sheer numbers of potential viewers in a country with more than 1 billion people would make up the difference.

"We were hoping to do pay per view in China but we are not anywhere near ready to do it yet. That's something for next year and the year after," he said.

"Once we get that going, it could be a monster," said Arum.

Even if Chinese pay per view doesn't take off, Macau will still remain a viable boxing venue because for non-American fighters it will represent a bigger purse. They won't have to pay U.S. taxes of about 40 percent on their earnings.

That would be a substantial incentive for someone such as Pacquiao, who would only be subject to lower tax rates in the Philippines or Macau on the \$25-\$30 million that Arum said he's expected to earn from the November fight.

The biggest upside from the fight nights, however, may be for the casino. It benefits directly from more visitors, which will help raise gambling revenue. The Pacquiao fight will be an especially good chance to reel in the high-rolling mainland Chinese VIP gamblers that have supercharged Macau's casino industry.

Arsenio Hall ready to chat his way back to top

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Arsenio Hall is eager to get back in the late-night talk show game, minus the big hair and shoulder pads that marked his initial foray nearly 20 years ago.

Joking to the Television Critics Association on Monday that he's "been away making turkey bacon," Hall said the challenges are much bigger now than when he was a pop-culture tastemaker on his old show that ran from 1989-94.

Back then, there were fewer channels and Johnny Carson was the dominant late-night host of "The Tonight Show."

"It's a huge challenge this time to bring people to the television," Hall said. "Your biggest fan doesn't watch you every night. You hope to get a guy three nights to check you out, the other nights they'll be catching someone else."

Hall isn't focused on going after fans of Jay Leno or Chel-

sea Handler, for example.

"I'm trying to be in the game," he said. "I just got to be better than one guy that's there."

He offered few details on the format and style of the new "Arsenio Hall Show" other than the old theme song is coming back with a new bit of music that Hall



Hall

wrote added to it.

Hall said no guests have yet been booked for the syndicated show debuting Sept. 9. More than 200 outlets have signed up to carry it.

Soon-to-be rivals Leno and Jimmy Kimmel have reached out to Hall. Leno offered the phone numbers of the best writers on his staff who were forced out during layoffs, while Kimmel wrote a check to support Hall's charity when he won "Celebrity Apprentice" last year.

"Maybe they're setting me up to knock me out," he said, "but the bottom line is everybody is being real nice to me."

Angelina Jolie speaks out against rape in war

TOKYO (AP)—Movie star and director Angelina Jolie urged a Japanese audience Monday to join her fight to stop sexual violence in war zones.

Jolie said she hoped "In the Land of Blood and Honey," her first film as writer and director, would inspire viewers to think about rape in war.

In April, the Group of Eight leaders agreed to work to end rape and sexual violence in conflict and the United Nations Security Council adopted text urging sanctions against perpetrators of sexual violence during armed conflict.

"This is just a beginning," she said. "Our aim must be to shatter impunity, so that rape can no longer be used as a weapon of war anywhere in the world as it was in Bosnia, and as it is today from Congo to Syria."

Jolie, who serves as special envoy for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, was speaking at a special screening event Monday at the U.N. University in Tokyo, as part of her campaign launched with British Foreign Secretary William Hague.

Jolie said she hoped her film would inspire the Japanese viewers to think further about the problem and take action, just as the campaign had tak-



Angelina Jolie poses for photographers before screening the film "In the Land of Blood and Honey" directed by her, at the United Nations University in Tokyo Monday, July 29, 2013.

en her across the globe.

"When I started down the road, making this film, I thought only of telling a story and doing my best to try to give a voice to survivors," she said. "But today I am here not only as a director, but as a campaigner, and a part of a global effort that is growing every day."

Japan is no stranger to sexual violence at war. The country still has problems fully coming to terms with what its militarist government did to hundreds of thousands of Asian women before and during World War II—by forcing many of them to become "comfort women" and provide sex to Japanese soldiers. The issue remains a major diplomatic problem between Japan and South Korea. Jolie did not comment on the "comfort women" issue.

Jolie's award-winning 2011 film about the war in Bosnia hits Japanese theaters on Aug. 10. The fictional tale of a romance between a Bosnian Serb man and a Bosnian Muslim woman, set during the Balkan war in the 1990s, won the Producer's Guild of America's Stanley Kramer Award.

Report: Bus on Bieber tour in border pot bust

DETROIT (AP)—U.S. border agents found marijuana on a bus with singer Justin Bieber's tour as it crossed into Detroit from Windsor, Canada.

The Detroit Free Press re-

ports that U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Ken Hammond confirms that the bus was stopped Sunday as it attempted to enter the U.S. on the Ambassador Bridge.

The singer was not on the bus at the time and performed later that night at Joe Louis Arena.

Hammond says a police dog indicated the presence of drugs

on the bus and that drug paraphernalia and a small amount of marijuana were found. He says the bus driver was cited and that the bus and its passengers were allowed to go.

Lea Michele breaks silence after Monteith death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lea Michele is breaking her silence online after her "Glee" co-star and real-life boyfriend Cory Monteith died of an overdose earlier this month.

The actress posted a photo of her and Monteith on Twitter on Monday, along with a message thanking her followers for "helping me through this time with your enormous love & support."

"Cory will forever be in my heart," Michele wrote.

Monteith was found dead July 13 in Vancouver, British Columbia. An autopsy revealed the 31-year-old actor died of an overdose of heroin and alcohol.

He and Michele played an on-again, off-again couple in the popular Fox series and were an off-screen couple for about a year.

Jackson concludes 'Hobbit' filming in New Zealand

SYDNEY (AP)—Peter Jackson has wrapped up filming "The Hobbit" trilogy and shared pictures of his last day on the set with his Facebook fans.

The New Zealand filmmaker provided a steady stream of updates and photos from the set of the final film, "The Hobbit: There And Back Again," on Friday. The second film, "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," will be released in December, and the finale appears in 2014.

The director posted pictures of dwarves, crew members and actor Martin Freeman, who plays the protagonist, hobbit Bilbo Baggins. The photo updates be-

gan and ended with pictures of Jackson's cat, Mr. Smudge. The final photo shows the director and feline cuddling, along with the caption: "A long day. A great day. Thank you all for being part of it! Now for some sleep!"

"The Hobbit," based on J.R.R. Tolkien's novel of the same name, is the prequel to Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings." It follows Baggins' adventures as he tries to help a group of dwarves regain their wealth and stature from the dragon Smaug.

The first film in the trilogy, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," opened in December 2012 and surpassed \$1 billion in box-office receipts worldwide.



This Aug. 19, 2012 file photo shows Cory Monteith, left, and Lea Michele at the 2012 Do Something awards in Santa Monica, Calif.

Jerry O'Connell gets skimpy on 'We Are Men'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Jerry O'Connell got a surprise when he saw part of his character's wardrobe in the new CBS comedy "We Are Men."

He didn't find out he would be wearing a skimpy swimsuit in several scenes until he saw it hanging in his dressing room.

The suit wasn't in the original script. As a result, O'Connell told the Television Critics Association on Monday that the show is probably his "most nerve-racking job."

"We got to work very early and it's a little chilly outside. I'm continually trying to make sure blood is flowing to every part of my body," he said. "We're a couple episodes in and I'm in the Speedo continually. I have joined a gym and I've started drinking light beer. I don't know

how guys like Michael Phelps do it all the time."

O'Connell first gained notice as a pre-teen in the 1986 film "Stand By Me."

"I was known as the fat guy from 'Stand By Me,'" he said. "I guess I'll be known as 'Speedo guy.'"

O'Connell's wife, Rebecca Romijn, knows a thing or two about swimsuits as a former Sports Illustrated cover model. She now stars on the TNT show "King & Maxwell."

"My wife's advice was, 'Go get a tan, do some pushups and maybe do some Pilates,'" O'Connell said.

O'Connell, Tony Shalhoub and Kal Penn co-star in "We Are Men" as newly single men sharing temporary digs. The show debuts Sept. 30.

Young couple's intimacy is risky without birth control

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Allison," and I have been in a relationship for two years. We met in our sophomore year of high school and have been dating ever since. We have an incredible relationship.

We were virgins when we started dating, but decided we would lose our virginity to each other. We have always used birth control pills and condoms to ensure we wouldn't be having any children.

Earlier this month we had a pregnancy scare. Allison had failed to tell me she stopped taking her birth control pills three months ago. My trust was broken, but most of all I was scared she might be pregnant. It turned out she wasn't, but because of the incident I have been skeptical about making love to her. She says this frustrates her, but I have told her the reason I won't is because she refuses to take the pill.

Abby, we are way too young to have a child and are totally unprepared. I'd still like to be intimate with Allison, but I'm afraid. What should I do?

BETRAYED IN BANGOR, MAINE

DEAR BETRAYED: You appear to be an intelligent and responsible young man. The first thing you should do is thank your higher power that there wasn't an "accident" and your girlfriend didn't become pregnant.

The next thing you should do is find out why Allison would stop taking her birth control pills without telling you. If there was a medical reason, there are other methods she could have used in their place. (If you are planning to attend college, she may have been thinking a baby would "anchor" you to her.)

And last, recognize that if you resume having sex with her—which I emphatically **DON'T** recommend—that you won't be able to trust her as far as birth control is concerned, and you will be the one totally responsible for preventing a pregnancy.

The saying, "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on ME," applies here.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I would like your opinion on the relatively new craze of trashing the wedding dress. I think it's a deplorable waste. I'm sorry I kept mine and watched it yellow over the years, but I haven't heard a reasonable argument for destroying the gown.

Some women say if they have a daughter, she wouldn't want a dated dress. But if the dress is currently in style, I'm sure some less fortunate girl would love to have it. Rather than trash it, I say why not donate the dress or sell it and send the money to a woman's charity?

SENSIBLE IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

DEAR SENSIBLE: The only rational reason I can think of for "trashing" a wedding dress would be if the marriage was a disaster and the bride was doing it as a way of venting her anger. I can't speak for all young women, but I am willing to bet that many would be thrilled to wear the gown their mother wore. And for those who aren't interested or can't fit into it, your idea of recycling is compassionate, generous and sensible.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband refuses to cover his mouth when he sneezes. He thinks that by "stifling" his sneeze he doesn't expel any particles. Besides being unhealthy, I feel it is gross for the rest of us. Is it possible to sneeze and not spray?

DUCKING FOR SHELTER IN OHIO

DEAR DUCKING: No. Some sneezes can travel up to a distance of 5 feet, expelling thousands of droplets into the air and onto surfaces. "Stifle" or not, your husband should cover his mouth.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



This Friday, July 26, 2013 photo taken and released by Peter Jackson, actor Ian Murray McKellen, right, as Gandalf poses with Jackson on the final day of filming of The Hobbit in Wellington, New Zealand.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

CBS: It was de Pablo's decision to exit 'NCIS'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—CBS Corp. chief executive Les Moonves says every effort was made to keep the actress who plays Ziva David on TV's highest-rated show, "NCIS." Moonves says Cote de Pablo was offered, in his words, "a lot of money" because the network didn't want to lose her from the crime drama. Moonves says the offer was then upped. But he says the actress decided she didn't want to continue on

the show. He noted the social media outcry from de Pablo's disappointed fans, but asserted CBS did everything possible to keep her. A representative for de Pablo didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. "NCIS" stars Mark Harmon as head of a Navy criminal investigations division. It returns for its 11th season this fall.

Evan Rachel Wood gives birth to baby boy

NEW YORK (AP)—Evan Rachel Wood

is a mom. Her representative said Monday that she gave birth to a baby boy. The 25-year-old actress married British actor Jamie Bell last year. The rep adds that "parents and baby are all doing well." No more details were provided. Wood's credits include "The Wrestler," "Thirteen" and HBO's "True Blood." She earned Golden Globe and Emmy nominations for her supporting role in "Mildred Pierce." Bell, 27, is best known for his roles in the films "Billy Elliot," "Jumper" and "The Adventures of Tintin."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Peculiar

4 "My bad"

8 MP's target

12 Japanese pond

13 Rid of rind

14 Cleo's river

15 Shad product

16 Raised an objection

18 Passion

20 Chop

21 Pioneer heading

24 Skewered entree

28 Stripped

32 Portrayal

33 Fuss

34 Man of La Mancha

36 Meadow

37 Sandwich shop

39 Harassed

41 Tweak the Constitution

43 "Ratatouille" rat

DOWN

1 Gumbo need

2 Entrance

3 Conked out

4 Adversary

46 Satirical news-paper, with "The"

50 Asked for

55 "CSI" evidence

56 Drag behind

57 Staff

58 Autumn mo.

59 Verbal

60 Holler

61 Zodiac sign

4 Weigh heavily on

5 Rowboat item

6 Expert

7 Green

8 Question, on

9 Humor

10 Bullring bravo

11 Started

17 "A mouse!"

19 Have bills

22 Goblet feature

23 Carreras or

24 Domingo

25 Leave in a hurry

26 Sheltered

27 Abacus component

28 Arp's art

29 The same

30 Field mouse

31 Loser to Clinton

35 Do a home make-over

38 Totally

40 Wd. from

42 Fawn's mom

45 Catch sight of

47 "American —"

48 Formerly

49 Brussels-based org.

50 Pi follower

51 Listener

52 Sine-non link

53 Pirouette pivot

54 Right angle

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-31

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rico Rodriguez, 15; Zac Brown, 35; J.K. Rowling, 48; Wesley Snipes, 51.

Happy Birthday: Put more effort into home, family and sustainability. Creative accounting and finding new ways to cut corners or to make your investments grow should be your intent. Additional responsibilities should be embraced and taken seriously. What you do this year will set the standard for years to come. Strive to be and do your very best. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 22, 27, 35, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Overindulgence and overreacting will not pay off when it comes to domestic affairs. You are best to listen to what's being proposed and to weigh the pros and cons carefully before you make a commitment that you may find confining.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Strive for perfection. Turn an idea into a profitable venture. Promote and present plans and you will get support. Romance is in the picture, and putting time aside to spend with someone you care for will enhance your relationship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Mixing business with pleasure is likely to jeopardize your job. Focus on what you can do for others and you will advance. A quick but practical response will put you in a favorable position regarding future prospects. Rely on past experience.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take care of personal responsibilities. Your ability to take control and make things happen will be impressive. Love is on the rise, and making changes to your lifestyle or the way you live will bring stellar results. Live in the moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Proceed with caution. Be wary of anyone asking for too much or taking advantage of what you have to offer. Don't be afraid to speak up and let your wishes be known. You will excel if you put in an honest effort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Communicate, participate and enjoy what life has to offer. You will find out information that can help you advance. Get more involved in the events that you believe you can make a positive contribution to. Love is in the stars.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be too quick to judge or to believe what you hear. You can and should look at your options and professional opportunities that can lead to a better future, but make sure your motives are right before you make a decision.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Think, experiment and follow through. Believe in who you are and what you do. Let your imagination lead the way and your heart decide what's best for you. Romance will enhance an important relationship. Live, love and laugh.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Play hard, have fun and most of all, keep everyone guessing what you'll do next. The element of surprise will be your best weapon when you face competition. Changes at home that will help you lower your overhead should be considered.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make important decisions regarding professional direction or personal status. Staying in control will be what counts if you want to protect your assets and set the standard for future dealings. Romance is in the stars.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can learn through observation. Not everyone will offer a clear description of what's expected of you. Ask questions that will leave no room for misinterpretation. Changes to the way you live will lift your spirits. Rely on emotional insight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put pressure on anyone standing between you and your dreams. Don't let emotional blackmail lead you down the wrong path. Set your sights on your goals and follow through. Love is heading in your direction, but so are ulterior motives.

Birthday Baby: You are responsible, imaginative and articulate. You are an achiever.

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STUMPED?

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS KNOW THEIR BOOKS Solution: 7 letters

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G D I R E C T F R E A D O I I
N N L L I F F S E L T I T F V
O I I A D I A T M R T U S S R
I M T N C R A T F A S G C T E
T M E E R C E T D F P T L N P
A A R Y O A E N R E A S U E U
M G A L C N E S M O S T B D S
R A C H R M E L S A T K S U Y
O Z Y E M A N U S C R I P T S
F I T O R A I D E M I G N S T
N N C C S R O H T U A S O O E
I E H E C N E R E F E R U R M
R S U G G E S T I O N S T M P

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Yesterday's Answer: Malocclusions

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Fun-loving Sapp smiles all the way to Hall of Fame



TAMPA, Fla.

(AP)—Now headed into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Warren Sapp smiles as he remembers accepting the challenge to turn around one of the worst franchises in pro sports history.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers lost 10 or more games for 11 consecutive seasons before selecting a mouthy, fun-loving and sometimes downright irreverent defensive tackle in the opening round of the 1995 NFL draft. He struggled during a 7-9 rookie season that ended the double-digit losses streak - but hardly lifted the team out of a funk.

Enter Tony Dungy with a plan that a young, supremely confident, 23-year-old Sapp found irresistible.

"When he walked into the job, it was kind of funny. We were walking through old One Buc Place going to see each other. I was coming through the back door and he was coming from his office. We met about halfway. We looked at each other and he said: 'I was looking for you,' and I said: 'I was looking for you.'"

They returned to Dungy's tiny working quarters, sat down and the coach explained how he planned to install a defensive system that would allow Sapp to flourish the way the 6-foot-2, 300-pound tackle with exceptional quickness and speed for his size did in college at the University of Miami.

"I said, 'Wait. Let's define that.' I said, 'We used to trample the run on our way to the quarterback and build a camp in the backfield that was three yards deep.' He said, 'I like that.' I said, 'If that's what you're asking me to do, then I can do that for you.' He said, 'But it's going to require a lot of work.' I said, 'I don't mind work, I've been working since I was 13 years old, so I'll be right here with you.'"

At age 40, Sapp still gets excited talking about Dungy replacing his first NFL coach, Sam Wayche, and setting a lofty goal of chasing down Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers in the old NFC Central. He and linebacker Derrick Brooks, also drafted in the first round in 1995, bought into the plan right away.

"Now we had a structure and a path. With Sam, it was a three-ring circus and you didn't know if you were part of the lions, tigers, bears, trapeze artists, horses or what. It would depend on his mood that day when he walked in. Once we got a structure and direction, we all were like: 'Let's go that way,'" Sapp said.

"It was a man who walked into this job, steady as a rock every day. And it was the first time in my life I ever had a black man leading me in anything. Me and Brooks looked at it, and were



In this Feb. 2, 2013 file photo, former Tampa Bay Buccaneers tackle Warren Sapp tears up after being selected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, in New Orleans.

like: 'Yeah, we have a figure in front of us that everybody tells us is a God-send, there's no way we won't play football for this man. There's no way I wouldn't take a bullet for him if it didn't kill me. I have always said that.'"

Working within Dungy's version of Cover 2 that Sapp, Brooks, safety John Lynch and cornerback Ronde Barber helped evolve into what's known today as Tampa 2, the self-described "small-town country boy" from Plymouth, Fla.—outside of Orlando—developed into one of the most dominating defensive tackles in league history.

Sapp was a four-time All-Pro selection and made the Pro Bowl the final seven years of a nine-season run with the Buccaneers, who ended a 15-year hiatus from the playoffs in 1997; made it to the NFC championship game in 1999, when Sapp was NFL defensive player of the year; and, won their only Super Bowl title in 2002.

Tampa Bay hasn't won a playoff game since. Sapp played four seasons with the Oakland Raiders before returning in 2007 with 96 1/2 regular-season sacks.

"I think you have to remember Warren Sapp for the big games. That's when he was at his best. Playoff games. Games that you had to have. Games that were on (national) TV," Dungy said. "He was going to show up and play well. And that's what you wanted, a guy who was going to be at his best in the big games."

There were times when Sapp's boisterous, brash style rubbed opposing players, coaches and fans the wrong

way—on and off the field.

Teammates, however, loved what he brought to the locker room and his commitment to winning.

"Warren didn't want to be second in anything. He brought an attitude and the swagger this franchise needed," Dungy said.

The Glazer family, which owns the Bucs, plan to retire his No. 99 jersey during the club's annual Ring of Honor ceremony in November.

"Warren never gave less than his all. His days on the field were headlined by incredible passion, overwhelming talent and, of course, his louder than

life personality," team co-chairman Bryan Glazer said.

Sapp joins Lee Roy Selmon, the first-ever draft pick of the expansion Bucs in 1976, as the only Hall of Famers who spent the majority of their careers in Tampa Bay. The Buccaneers ranked in the top 10 in fewest yards and points allowed for nine straight seasons from 1997-2005.

"We took a place where they said careers came to die to a place that's become a destination," Sapp said. "We got a No. 1 receiver (Vincent Jackson) who just walked in the door here last year. That was never the case.

Nobody was coming here as a free agent. We got Simeon Rice to walk in this place and help us win a championship. There were some choice things that went on."

Year in and year out, no team was as consistent defensively as Tampa Bay during Sapp's heyday. The impact is still felt around the league.

"Whenever you think of the Purple People Eaters, you've got to go to Minnesota. When you think of Doomsday, you've got to go to Dallas. The Steel Curtain, you've got to go to Pittsburgh," Sapp said. "They play Tampa 2 everywhere."

Mo Farah challenges Usain Bolt to race

LONDON (AP)—Usain Bolt has a new challenger, and maybe even a new distance to think about.

The biggest star in track is being sought out by Mo Farah for a charity race somewhere between Bolt's sprint specialty and Farah's distance domain.

"It'd be great to be able to do a distance where people vote in what distance will be suitable, and then get a judge and then come in the middle with that distance and train for it," said Britain's Farah, who won the 5,000 and 10,000 meters at last year's London's Olympics. "Bolt, are you up for that? Come on, you got to do it."

Bolt has little left to prove on the track. The Jamaican won the 100 and 200 in world-record time at the 2008 Beijing Games, and then became the first man to defend those titles at last year's Olympics. He also helped Jamaica win the 4x100 relays at both.

On Friday in London, Bolt



Jamaica's Usain Bolt smiles as he gives a television interview after running a lap of honor after winning the men's 100m race during the Diamond League athletics meet at the Stadium in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London, Friday, July 26, 2013.

won the 100 meters at the Anniversary Games, a Diamond League meet that took place in the Olympic Stadium to mark one year since the start of the 2012 Olympics. Farah won the 3,000 on Saturday.

Despite the differences in distances, Bolt seems to be considering Farah's challenge.

"That sounds fun. It's going to be hard, but for me it's charity, so it's just all about fun and enjoyment," Bolt said. "For me, I'm up

Growing up on an unpaved road, Sapp said he dreamed of one day playing in the NFL but that the Hall of Fame never really entered his mind until he retired.

He was elected in his first year of eligibility in February and will be enshrined in Canton on Saturday as a part of a class that also includes Larry Allen, Cris Carter, Curley Culp, Jonathan Ogden, Bill Parcells and Dave Robinson.

"I played the game for the love and respect of the people I played with and against. And if you are picking a team, and you've got a defensive tackle position, I'm taking 99. And twice on Sunday," Sapp said. "That's all I've ever wanted. If you had a defense, and you set a defensive tackle position, if I'm not that one, I'm definitely the other one. If you're not taking me, I want to see the two you are taking."

Lots of family, friends and former teammates will help him celebrate in Canton, though Sapp will miss one person who will not—the late Hall of Famer Deacon Jones, who died in June.

Like Sapp, Jones grew up in a small town on the outskirts of Orlando. The two grew close in recent years.

"He invented talking trash and backing it up. He invented coming from a little small town, making it to the Johnny Carson show, movies, all the stuff he did," Sapp said.

"The man was everything you wanted that signified a Hall of Famer. Everything that it was. And they said he was gatekeeper," Sapp added. "And for me, in the 50th year of the Hall of Fame to be going in and the gatekeeper not be standing there, who else? That's the only question I have. Who else is going to sit there and talk trash to me?"

for anything if it's possible."

The hard part would be deciding what distance to race.

Bolt may be the best sprinter of all time and has run the 400 before. Farah, however, is a distance specialist who is talking more and more about moving in the other direction and adding the marathon to his running regime.

So even one of the middle distances, such as the 1,500 meters, would seem unlikely.

"Way too far," Bolt said. "(The) 600, for sure, I can try, because I've done 600 in training."

Two running stars meeting at a made-up distance is not new. Nearly a year after the 1996 Olympics, 200-400 gold medalist Michael Johnson and 100 champion Donovan Bailey met in a much-hyped 150-meter race in Toronto.

About halfway through, Johnson pulled up with a muscle injury in his left thigh, leaving Bailey to win \$1 million.

Source: A-Rod may be suspended under labor deal



NEW YORK

(AP)—Alex Rodriguez may have to start serving a suspension as soon as it is announced rather than wait for a grievance to play out.

Major League Baseball may try to suspend A-Rod under its collective bargaining agreement instead of its drug rules, which would eliminate any chance of delaying a penalty until after the case goes to an arbitrator, The Associated Press has learned.

Rodriguez has never been disciplined for a drug offense, and a first offender under baseball's Joint Drug Agreement is entitled to an automatic stay if the players' association files a grievance—meaning the penalty is put on hold until after an arbitrator rules.

While use of banned performance-enhancing substances falls under the drug agreement, MLB may argue other alleged violations are punishable under the labor contract, a person familiar with management's deliberations told the AP, speaking on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

Taking that action would prevent the New York Yankees third baseman from returning to the field, even if he recovers from a quadriceps injury cited by the team as the reason for keeping him on the disabled list.

And merely threatening to use that provision might give MLB leverage to force a deal.

The Yankees expect Rodri-



In this July 15, 2013, file photo, New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez heads out to batting practice before a Class AA baseball game with the Trenton Thunder against the Reading Phillies in Reading, Pa.

gueuz to be accused of recruiting other athletes for the clinic, of attempting to obstruct MLB's investigation, and of not being truthful with MLB in the past when he discussed his relationship with Dr. Anthony Galea, who pleaded guilty two years ago to a federal charge of bringing unapproved drugs into the United States from Canada.

Four years ago, Rodriguez admitted using PEDs while with Texas from 2001-03. He has repeatedly denied using them since.

Baseball has been investigating Rodriguez and other players since a January report in the Miami New Times alleging they received PEDs from Biogenesis of America, a closed anti-aging clinic in Florida.

"We're still involved in the process of preparing for an eventual appeal in this matter," Rodriguez's lawyer, David Cornwell, said Monday on ESPN New York Radio. "My understanding is that the next step that is going to be taken is that the players' association and

baseball will meet to discuss the investigation and baseball's focus on particular players. So we'll see how that process plays out. But at this point my understanding or my expectation is that we're going to be working through the process towards an appeal."

Cornwell did not return an email seeking comment.

Aside from the drug agreement, there is no automatic stay for suspensions under baseball's labor contract. Rodriguez could be punished under Article XII (B) of the Basic Agreement,

which states: "Players may be disciplined for just cause for conduct that is materially detrimental or materially prejudicial to the best interests of baseball including, but not limited to, engaging in conduct in violation of federal, state or local law."

If suspended under that section, Rodriguez would serve the penalty while a grievance is litigated before arbitrator Fredric Horowitz—unless the union asks for a stay and the arbitrator grants one, which would be unusual under the grievance

procedure. And baseball could always try to punish A-Rod on drug violations later.

It would be difficult for Commissioner Bud Selig to remove the arbitrator from the process. A provision in Article XI gives the commissioner permission to rule instead of the arbitrator on a complaint "involving the preservation of the integrity of, or the maintenance of public confidence in, the game of baseball."

But a letter from Selig that is Attachment 1 states: "I understand that the players' association has expressed concern that the commissioner might take some action pursuant to Article XI (A) (1) (b) of the Basic Agreement which could negate rights of players under the new Basic Agreement. While I have difficulty seeing that this is a real problem, I am quite willing to assure the association that the commissioner will take no such action."

In addition, if Selig attempted to bypass the arbitrator, the union would have the right to reopen the labor contract with respect to that provision.

Cornwell would not respond to a report in the New York Daily News on Monday that said Selig would not pursue a lifetime ban if Rodriguez accepted a suspension through 2014.

"There's been all sorts of reports, all sorts of sources and all sorts of breaking news and breathless coverage, and I don't feel any need to respond to any of it," Cornwell told ESPN.

Giambi's pinch-hit homer gives Indians 3-2 win

CLEVELAND (AP)—Pinch-hitter Jason Giambi homered over the center field wall leading off the ninth inning to give the Cleveland Indians their fifth straight victory, 3-2 over the Chicago White Sox on Monday night.

Giambi, batting for struggling Mark Reynolds, belted a 1-1 pitch from Ramon Troncoso (1-3) high over the wall and into the bushes in center. It was the 436th career homer and ninth career walk-off shot for the slugger, who had a bucket of water dumped over his head by teammates after the game.

Chris Perez (3-1) pitched the ninth, allowing a two-out triple to Dayan Viciedo. He got out of the inning when left fielder Michael Brantley made a nice catch for the third out.

The Indians moved within 2 1-2 games of the idle Detroit Tigers in the AL Central.

The sinking White Sox have lost four straight and 10 of 13.

Rays 2, Red Sox 1

In Boston, David Price allowed just two hits over 7 1-3 innings to beat Boston for the second time in six days as Tampa Bay reclaimed first place in the AL East.

Price (6-5) was dominating in the makeup game before it was delayed for 39 minutes be-

cause of a brief downpour in the middle of the eighth. The Rays left-hander stayed in the game, but retired just one batter—after starting him out with three straight balls—before Joel Peralta relieved him.

Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 26th save. He gave up a single to Jacoby Ellsbury, walked David Ortiz and threw a wild pitch before Mike Napoli struck out on a 3-2 changeup to end it.

Felix Doubront (7-5) allowed two runs on eight hits in five innings for the Red Sox.

Athletics 9, Blue Jays 4

In Oakland, Calif., Yoenis Cespedes homered and hit a two-run triple, Josh Reddick added a two-run double and had three RBIs, and Oakland beat Toronto.

Jed Lowrie singled home a run and Josh Reddick hit a sacrifice fly in Oakland's four-run first inning. Cespedes led off the eighth with his 16th home run, snapping a career-worst 25-game homerless streak for the Home Run Derby champion.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-run homer, while Adam Lind and Brett Lawrie each hit solo shots against A.J. Griffin (10-7), who retired the first 13 batters of the game.

Esmil Rogers (3-5) was tagged for eight runs—six earned—on nine hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Rangers 4, Angels 3

In Arlington, Texas, Geovany Soto hit a game-ending homer after A.J. Pierzynski went deep to tie the game earlier in the ninth off closer Ernesto Frieri, and Texas snapped a four-game skid.

Pierzynski led off by pulling a pitch into the right-field seats, his 11th homer this season which snapped a 4-for-27 slump. Nelson Cruz followed with a single off Frieri (0-3) before David Murphy grounded into a double play. Soto, who entered the game hitting only .198 this season, then hit a towering flyball to left that easily cleared the wall.

Jason Frasor (1-2) pitched a scoreless ninth for Texas, three days after he gave up a game-ending homer in an 11-inning loss at Cleveland.

Pirates 9, Cardinals 2

In Pittsburgh, Francisco Liriano allowed one run over seven dominant innings, Pedro Alvarez hit his NL-leading 27th home run and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the St. Louis Cardinals.

Liriano (11-4) struck out

eight and walked just two to win his fifth straight start. The Pirates kicked off the key series at PNC Park by sending the Cardinals to their fourth straight loss to pull within a half-game of the lead in the NL Central.

Clint Barnes doubled twice and drove in two runs for Pittsburgh. Andrew McCutchen added two hits and an RBI.

Jake Westbrook (7-5) continued to struggle against the Pirates. He fell to 1-8 against Pittsburgh in his career after surrendering four first-inning runs. Matt Carpenter and Shane Robinson hit RBI singles for St. Louis, which has scored just four runs during its longest losing streak of the season.

Braves 9, Rockies 8, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Andrelton Simmons drove in Dan Uggla from first base with a triple off Edgmer Escalona in the 10th inning, and Atlanta won its fourth straight game.

After Uggla led off with a walk, Simmons hit the ball too deep into the gap in left-center field for Carlos Gonzalez and Dexter Fowler to keep it from reaching the wall.

Scott Downs (1-0) earned the win after being acquired in

a trade with the Los Angeles Angels earlier in the day and arriving at Turner Field not long before the first pitch. The left-hander allowed one hit and struck out one in 1 1-3 innings.

Escalona (1-4) allowed one hit, one run and one walk in 12 pitches.

Gonzalez went 5 for 5 with two RBIs after missing the last three games with a sprained middle right finger. He drove in the tying run in the ninth off Jordan Walden.

Padres 2, Reds 1

In San Diego, Chris Denorfia hit a two-run, pinch-hit homer off Aroldis Chapman in the bottom of the ninth inning for the Padres.

Chapman (3-4) walked lead-off batter Yonder Alonso on a 3-2 pitch, then Denorfia drove a 98 mph first-pitch offering from Chapman over the center-field fence 423 feet away to deal the Reds their fourth straight loss.

Luke Gregerson (5-5) pitched the ninth for the win.

Mets 6, Marlins 5

In Miami, Ike Davis had a go-ahead RBI double in a three-run seventh inning, Daniel Murphy drove in three runs, and New York snapped a five-game skid against Miami.

David Aardsma (2-0) pitched an inning in relief of Jeremy Hefner for the win. Bobby Par-

nell retired Giancarlo Stanton with runners on first and third to end it for his 21st save in 25 opportunities.

Jeff Mathis drove in two runs for Miami.

Miami's Jacob Turner was in line for the win when he was pulled with a 5-3 lead after 6 1-3 innings. But Miami relievers Mike Dunn and A.J. Ramos (3-4) struggled to get out of the seventh as the Mets scored three runs.

Brewers 5, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Carlos Gomez broke a scoreless tie in the ninth inning with an RBI single and Jeff Bianchi added a two-run double to lift Milwaukee over Chicago.

The Brewers, sitting in last place in the NL Central, won for the third time in eight games and ended the Cubs' winning streak at three games.

Brewers reliever Brandon Kintzler (3-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the victory.

Cubs reliever Pedro Strop (1-1) gave up the single to Gomez on an 0-2 pitch and Jean Segura easily scored from second to give the Brewers a 1-0 lead. With one out and the bases loaded, Bianchi gave the Brewers insurance with a double to right to score two more runs and Rickie Weeks also added a two-run double as Milwaukee batted around in the ninth.

SEDA honors Bud Cup champions



Winners in the nine divisions of the 2013 Saipan Electronic Darts Association League's Bud Cup were recognized during the awards ceremony at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club last Sunday.

SEDA organizers handed trophies to the Bud Cup winners in the Inter-Government division, Ladies, Kingfisher C, Chichirika C, Thursday B Flame Three, Thursday B Fanihi, Tuesday B, A Division, and the Masters.

Oceanside DPL Sakude Talu, which is made up for Vince and George Sablan, Dena Borja, Sam Babauta, and Joe Mafnas won the Inter-Government Bud Cup, while Rita Fitial, Luz Antonio, Tresha Diez, Matrina Lisua, and Emily Vargas of Jokers Try Luck won the Ladies division.

In the Kingfisher C, Joe's Steak Gangnam Style prevailed with the champion team having Raymond David, Jake Ilago, Jun Quemadom Salamar Buathong, Bonsung Srisomkhieo, and Dionela Tabelon on its roster. In the Chichirika C, Jake Licop, Modie Zamora, Michael Baldonadi, Mark Joseph Mendoza, Rommel Ronquillo, and J.M. Ong of Oceanside Underdawgs hoisted the Bud Cup crown.



Players and supporters of Oceanside Underdawgs pose with their Bud Cup trophies in the Chichirika C division during the awards ceremony for the SEDA League last Sunday at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

For the Thursday B Flame Three and Fanihi divisions, the Bud Cup trophies went to Jonny's Kyodai and SOS Zyndikato. Kyodai's is composed of Jeff and Ton Tomokane, Allan Cabrera, Darwin Sablan, Joseph Cruz, Patrick Togawa, and Leo Itaas, while SOS Zyndikato has Chester Hamoy, Marcial Chavez, Ronald Doria, Richard Presinede, and Marc Nelvis as players.

In the Tuesday B, Naked Fish Docomo Na'Gupou II took the Bud Cup trophy and the champion team is composed of captain Darwin Sablan and members Jeff Babauta, Alvin Sablan, Sim Iramk, Fred Salavaria, Rolly Morales, and George Cruz.

Another Oceaniside-sponsored team—Outlawz—also earned a Bud Cup crown after ruling the A division. Captain

Roderick Osorio led the squad, which has George Medina, Romuel Chavez, Presinede, Clifford Hamoy, Eric Pascual, Jun Lambon, and Jun Visaya as members.

In the Masters division, the Jokers Destroyers won behind captain Gerry Galzote, Pam Ybanez, Annie Legaspi, Bernard Paras, Sadiri Martin, and Rolly Morales. (Saipan Tribune)

Peter tops MGA July tourney



Marco Peter topped Marianas Golf Association's July Ace of the Month Tournament held last Saturday, July 27, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Peter shot identical 47s in the front and back nines to give him a 94 gross score. With a handicap of 20, he bagged the ace of the month with a net score of 74.

Joey Dela Cruz actually shot two strokes lower than Peter, but since he already won the June ace tourney, he was ineligible to win in the July competition.

Dela Cruz shot a 43 in the front and 38 in the back for a gross score of 81. With a handicap of nine, he netted a 72.

Third place, meanwhile, went to J.J. Atalig who shot a 38 in the front and a 44 in the back

for a gross score of 82. With a handicap of six, Atalig netted a score of 76.

In the closest to the pin battle, Atalig won closest to the pin in hole No. 3, Ben Duenas was without peer in hole No. 7, and Joey DelaCruz took hole No. 13.

MGA's August Ace of the Month is scheduled for Aug. 24 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Show time is 9am with a 10am tee off.

For more information about MGA and for further updates on its upcoming tournaments, contact J.J. Atalig at 285-4115, Greg Sablan Jr. at 483-8263, or email marianasgolf670@gmail.com.

The public can also view the organization's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MarianasGolfAssociation. (Saipan Tribune)



Marco Peter, third from left, poses with other Marianas Golf Association members after winning the July Ace of the Month Tournament held last Saturday, July 27, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

BALLERSSS

From Page 28

off six triples, while Yolowsag Attack got one trey each from Jazmin Rayphand and Jaime Mendoza to face a manageable deficit at halftime.

However, Ballerssss pulled away in the second half, as Lebría was held to one triple, which she made when the game was already out of reach for Yolowsag Attack. Only Lebría and Mendoza scored for Yolowsag Attack in the second half, allowing Ballerssss to win its debut via blowout.

The second game in the opening day of the four-team league also ended in a rout, as four Bubblebxtt players joined forces in whipping the Rachel Abrams-led Hashtag.

Mikki Kautz had 16 points for Bubblebxtt, Jeralyn Castillo added 14, and Marie Javier and Madeleine Alegre logged 13 and 10, respectively. Only Abrams scored in twin digits for Hashtag with her 14 points.

With Bubblebxtt having a bal-

anced offense and only Abrams attacking for Hashtag, the former built a 31-16 halftime advantage and never looked back from thereon.

Meanwhile, games in the Kanoa summer caging will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The four teams will play in a double-round robin regular season and all will march into the double-elimination playoffs.

First Game

Ballerssss 70 – Palero 20, Diaz 18, Travilla 16, Reyes 6, Garon 4, Olivos 2.

Yolowsag Attack 52 – Lebría 23, Mendoza 12, Rayphand 7, Kautz 6, Mendoza 2.

Scoring by halves: 52-40, 70-52.

Second Game

Bubblebxtt 57 – Kautz 16, Castillo 14, Javier 13, Alegre 10, Pagarao 2, Gatchalian 2.

Hashtag 30 – Abrams 14, Gelacio 6, Atalig 5, Lumabi 2, Badilles 2.

Scoring by halves: 31-16, 57-30.

CHENTSOVA

From Page 28

Thirty-seven swimmers joined the qualifying races in the 400m freestyle with Mexico's Charetzeni Escobar posting the best qualifying time at 4:13.37. Katie Ledecky of the U.S. went on to win the event with a time of 3:59.82, as she was the lone swimmer in Sunday evening's finals to complete the race under three minutes. Though she broke the four-minute mark, Ledecky's time is still behind the world and championship records of Italy's Federica Pellegrini, who logged 3:59.15 on July 26, 2009 in Rome.

Meanwhile, one more CNMI swimmer plunged into the pool in Barcelona during the opening day of the World Championships. Kensuke Kimura joined the 50m butterfly race, but missed a PBT when he timed in at 28.01 seconds. His PBT

stands at 27.57 seconds. The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmer swam from Lane 0 and Heat 3 and defeated United Republic of Tanzania's Hemed Hilal (28.25 seconds) and Gambia's Folarin Ogunsola (28.50 seconds).

Russia's Roland Schoeman had the fastest qualifying time in the 50m butterfly, recording 23.02 seconds, but Brazil's Cesar Cielo won the gold medal in the event after clocking in at 23.01 seconds in last Monday's finals. Schoeman missed the finals, as he finished 10th in the semis and only the Top 8 marched into the gold medal race.

Meanwhile, though he was disappointed with his performance in the opening of the competition, Kimura when interviewed by Alice McAlpine of The Reporters' Academy UK said his failure to set a PBT in the 50m butterfly gives him more motivation as he races in his second and last event—the

100m butterfly—on Friday.

The Reporters' Academy UK, a non-profit media production company, has forged a partnership with the Oceania Swimming Federation and will be reporting updates on the performance of American Samoa, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Tahiti swimmers competing in Barcelona.

More than 30 athletes from the Oceania Swimming Federation are participating in the swimming competition in the World Championships, including two more CNMI vets—veteran Rezne Wong and newcomer Angel De Jesus.

Wong will have his first event in Barcelona this morning (evening on Saipan) as he races in the 200m individual medley. His qualifying time in the event is listed at 2:11.23, but he holds the CNMI national mark in the 200m IM (2:10.18), which was recorded in the 2011 edition of

the World Championships in Shanghai, China.

The 21-year-old Wong, who also represented the CNMI in the past three editions of the World Championships, will also participate in the 200m breaststroke tomorrow and will try to eclipse the CNMI mark (2:23.35) he also logged in China two years ago.

As for De Jesus, she will debut in Barcelona on Friday when she joins the 50m butterfly qualifying race. De Jesus's PBT in the event is listed at 34.37 seconds. Also racing on Thursday is Chentsova, who will have her last event—the 800m freestyle—where she holds a PBT of 10:34.21.

De Jesus will the close out the CNMI's campaign in Barcelona this Saturday when she competes in the 50m freestyle race. Besides De Jesus, who has a PBT of 30.98 seconds, six other swimmers from Oceania Swimming Federation will join the same event.

13, Villanueva 13, Alegre 8, Tenorio 2.

Navy Hill 59 – Devero 18, Mancao 13, Quan 8, Diaz 4, Camacho 4, Jacob 4, Rebuyon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-18, 39-28, 65-42, 79-59.

Second Game

RadioCom 76 – Inos 17, Zapanta 16, Ritual 14, Salas 10, Marchadesh 6, Metran 5, Standish 4, Salazar 2, Echavez 2.

Maplas 53 – Mendoza 15, Ocampo 9, Pangelinan 9, Morales 8, Usi 8, Aniciete 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-11, 33-28, 52-38, 76-53.

EASY

From Page 28

65-42. Five O connected on three triples in the third and got contributions from every player it fielded in the game to complete the breakaway. Melvin Cadiang canned the two treys for Five O and the other triple came from J.R. Barrios. Randy Mungcal and Bryle Alegre also helped out in the third canto, combining for 16 markers.

Navy Hill never made headway in the fourth and dropped to a 1-3 record. Christian De-

ro led Navy Hill's losing cause with his 18 points. Cadiang top-scored for Five O with his 19 markers, while Barrios added 15 and Mungcal and J.P. Villanueva chipped in 13 apiece.

In the second game, RadioCom turned a 33-28 halftime lead to a 52-38 spread with Rocyl Ritual leading the third-quarter assault. The shooting forward scored 8 of his 14 points in the third canto to stretch RadioCom's lead to double digits, entering the final canto.

In the fourth period, Perry Inos finished what Ritual started, nailing 13 of his 17 markers

in the payoff period to keep RadioCom's comfortable margin. Inos made most of his points on second chance attempts, as he was busy chasing loose balls and going for the offensive rebounds in the fourth quarter.

Maplas, which absorbed its second straight loss after a 2-0 start, tried to recover in the fourth, but missed a lot of shots from downtown and managed to move only within 9 early in that period.

First Game

Five O Restaurant 79 – Cadiang 19, Barrios 15, Mungcal

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	63	43	.594	—
Boston	63	44	.589	1/2
Baltimore	58	48	.547	5
New York	55	50	.524	7 1/2
Toronto	48	57	.457	14 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	59	45	.567	—
Cleveland	57	48	.543	2 1/2
Kansas City	51	51	.500	7
Minnesota	45	57	.441	13
Chicago	40	63	.388	18 1/2

West Division

Oakland	63	43	.594	—
Texas	57	49	.538	6
Seattle	50	55	.476	12 1/2
Los Angeles	48	56	.462	14
Houston	35	69	.337	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	61	45	.575	—
Washington	52	54	.491	9
Philadelphia	49	56	.467	11 1/2
New York	47	56	.456	12 1/2
Miami	40	64	.385	20

Central Division

St. Louis	62	41	.602	—
Pittsburgh	62	42	.596	1/2
Cincinnati	59	48	.551	5
Chicago	48	56	.462	14 1/2
Milwaukee	44	61	.419	19

West Division

Los Angeles	56	48	.538	—
Arizona	54	51	.514	2 1/2
Colorado	51	56	.477	6 1/2
San Diego	49	58	.458	8 1/2
San Francisco	46	58	.442	10

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2013 SEDA League Bud Cup Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Players of Oceanside DPL Sakude Talu pose with their Bud Cup trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2013 Saipan Electronic Darts Association League last Sunday at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.



Members of Jokers Try Luck pose for a group photo after getting the Bud Cup award in the Ladies division.



Joe's Steak Gangnam Style players show their Bud Cup trophies in the Kingfisher C division.



Jonny's Kyodai members pose with their Bud Cup trophies in the B Flame Three division.



SOS Zyndikato players pose for a group photo after earning the Bud Cup trophy in the Thursday B Fanihi.



Members of Tuesday B Bud Cup champion Naked Fish Docomo Na'Gupu II pose with their trophies.



Oceanside Outlawz players and supporters pose for the camera after receiving the Bud Cup trophy in the A Division.



The Jokers Destroyers members are all smiles after getting the Bud Cup championship in the Masters division.



Fun-loving Sapp smiles all the way to Hall of Fame

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Source: A-Rod may be suspended under labor deal

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28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Chentsova sets PBT in Barcelona

The CNMI's Victoria Chentsova plunges into the pool during a qualifying race in the 400m free-style event in the 15th FINA World Championships at the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, Spain last Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Victoria Chentsova marked a personal best time in Day 1 of the 15th FINA World Championships in Barcelona, Spain.



Chentsova competed in the 400m free-style event of the biannual tournament last Sunday at the 12,000-seater Palau Sant Jordi and broke the five-minute barrier, as she timed in at 4:59.78. The Saipan Swim Club member was on Lane 8 and Heat 1 and shattered her previous PBT (5:08.57) by 8.79 seconds. She completed the first 50m meter of the race in 34.38 seconds and submitted 1:12.08 after two laps. By the 200m mark, Chentsova's time read at 2:30.23 and after three cycles, she clocked in at 3:08.37.

See CHENTSOVA on Page 26

Easy wins for RadioCom, Five O

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



RadioCom and Five O Restaurant coasted to separate wins in the 2013 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In the first game, Five O topped Navy Hill, 79-69, to improve to a 2-2 record, while RadioCom had a better mark than the former with its 3-1 slate, following a 76-53 triumph over Maplas in the second game. Both victors in Monday's double-header started a breakaway in the third period to nail twin-digit winning margins.

After a 39-28 halftime lead, Five O's advantage went up to 23 at the end of the third period,

See EASY on Page 26

RadioCom's Rocyl Ritual pulls up for a jumper against Maplas' Ryan Odicta during the third quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Ballerssss, Bubblebxtt win in Kanoa caging opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2013 Kanoa Resort Women's Basketball Summer League kicked off last Monday night with Ballerssss and Bubblebxtt prevailing in the opening games at the TSL Sports Complex.

Ballerssss played in the first game and limited Yoloswag Attack to 12 points in the second half to cruise to a 70-52 win. Three players scored in double digits in Ballerssss' debut with Ira Palero leading the way with her 20 points. Dion Diaz contributed 18 points, while Jan Travilla chipped in 14.

Diaz and Travilla teamed up for Ballerssss in the first half with the former dropping 14 of her 18 points in the first half and the latter scoring 12 for their 52-40 advantage at the break.

Kaylani Lebria also waxed hot in the opening 20 minutes of the match, firing 18 points

See BALLERSSS on Page 26



Bubblebxtt's Madeleine Alegre goes up for a shot against a Hashtag defender during the second game in the opening day of the Kanoa women's caging last Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO